COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 45.

F I J I.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(For Report for 1889, *see* Colonial Report No. 116, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1892.

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1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

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[For Report for 1889, *see* Colonial Report No. 116, Old Series.]

Sir John B. Thurston to Lord Knutsford.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
August 31, 1890.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information a very interesting and able report upon the Blue Book for the year 1890 drawn up by Mr. James Stewart, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) John B. Thurston.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.,
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONY OF FIJI.

Report on the Blue Book of the Year 1890.

I.—Finance.

The progressive financial position of the Colony is shown by the following statement of the revenue and expenditure and the accruing surplus or deficit during each of the past five years:—

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Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure, with the Surplus or Deficit, of each Year from 1886 *to* 1890 *inclusive.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.			Surplus.	Deficit.
		Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	Total.		
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1886 -	64,574 1 1	38,407 2 6	39,726 5 8	78,133 8 2	—	13,559 7 1
1887 -	64,916 2 9	33,499 7 8	39,651 5 5	73,150 13 1	—	8,234 10 4
1888 -	65,018 14 8	25,009 3 11	33,983 16 6	58,993 0 5	6,025 14 3	—
1889 -	63,722 0 6	22,219 0 10	35,491 1 5	57,710 2 3	6,011 18 3	—
1890 -	66,817 5 1	25,199 5 5	35,627 1 1	60,826 6 6	5,990 18 7	—

The revenue of the year, it will be seen, amounted to 66,817*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, a sum greater than that received in any of the previous four years.

The receipts were in excess of the estimate by 2,817*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure, which exceeded the estimate by the sum of 1,541*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* amounted to 60,826*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

There thus accrued for the year a surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to 5,990*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, or, in round figures, six thousand pounds.

This annual surplus, it will be observed, has now been maintained for three consecutive years.

The following analysis of the revenue shows:—

(1.) Amount of revenue collected under each head for the years 1889 and 1890.

(2.) The increase or decrease on each item for the year 1890, as compared with the corresponding receipts of the year 1889.

(3.) The proportion per centum of revenue accruing under each head during the years 1887, 1888, 1889, and 1890.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT OF THE REVENUE.

Tax or Duty.	Amount Collected in the Year 1890.	Amount collected in the Year 1889.	Increase.	Decrease.	Proportion per Centum of Revenue accruing under each Head.			
					1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Customs dues	26,158 14 4	27,131 8 3	—	972 13 11	39·15	42·58	37·79	38·00
Warehouse and wharfage dues	2,828 19 1	2,822 3 2	6 15 11	—	4·23	4·43	4·89	4·95
Pilotage, light, and shipping	1,345 8 3	1,423 17 5	—	78 9 2	2·01	2·23	2·48	2·34
General licenses	3,588 16 0	3,561 13 6	27 2 6	—	5·37	5·59	5·56	5·65
Native taxes	20,770 16 3	17,184 19 4	3,585 16 11	—	31·09	26·97	30·23	25·29
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	1,463 8 4	1,419 18 9	43 9 7	—	2·19	2·23	2·61	2·94
Postal dues	1,889 13 1	1,896 17 1	—	7 4 0	2·83	2·98	2·74	3·84
Stamps	1,657 8 8	1,440 8 4	217 0 4	—	2·48	2·26	1·89	1·49
Hospitals	1,061 8 4	1,642 12 9	—	581 4 5	1·59	2·58	2·58	4·12
Freights	69 8 0	71 2 0	—	1 14 0	·10	·11	·06	·09
Miscellaneous	3,998 14 11	3,479 3 4	519 11 7	—	5·98	5·46	5·66	6·08
Fees on Crown grants and surveys	177 16 11	159 11 6	18 5 5	—	0·27	·25	·64	1·03
Land sales	—	63 15 3	—	63 15 3	Nil.	·10	·23	·81
Suva water rate	869 18 10	853 13 0	16 5 10	—	1·30	1·34	1·11	·82
Registration fees	338 10 6	303 11 10	34 18 8	—	·50	·48	·58	·38
Native industrial school	10 0 0	—	10 0 0	—	·01	Nil.	·15	·44
Receipts, labour depôt	488 16 11	267 5 0	221 11 11	—	·73	·42	·70	1·69
Repayment of former advances for returning Polynesian immigrants	99 6 8	—	99 6 8	—	.15	Nil.	Nil.	·01
Total	66,817 5 1	63,722 0 6	4,800 5 4	1,705 0 9	—	—	—	—

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Customs Duties.

The receipts under the head of customs dues, which form 39·15 per centum of the total revenue, show a decrease, as compared with the previous year of 972*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* This decrease was entirely owing to the interruption of trade by labour strikes in the neighbouring Australasian Colonies, which prevented the regular loading and sailing of vessels from ports in those Colonies, and consequently lessened the imports, and the import duties. The amount of customs duties received is equal to an ad valorem rate of 13·35 per centum on the total value of goods imported for use in the colony.

Native Taxes.

There was an increase of 760*l.* in the assessment of native taxes for the year over that of the previous year, the increase being divided among five provinces, as follows:—

Province of Pai Leon 100*l.* Increased from 1,900*l.* to 2,000*l.* at the request of the people.

Province of Rewa 70*l.* Increased from 930*l.* to 1,000*l.*, in view of the increased cultivation of sugar cane in this province, which necessitates additional expenditure by the Treasury in the management of the cultivation, but makes the work of tax-paying easier for the contributors.

Province of Nadraga 80*l.* Increased from 720*l.* to 800*l.* in view of the increased price of copra and the comparative ability of the province to pay the assessment.

Island of Rotumah 50*l.* Increased from 450*l.* to 500*l.* for the same reason.

Province of Ba 460*l.* Increased from 1,040*l.* to 1,500*l.* The cultivation of sugar cane and consequent ability of the province to pay the assessment has increased greatly in this province since its assessment was fixed.

The total assessment of native taxes for the year was 19,740*l.*

The total amount contributed to the public revenue from native taxes was 20,770*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, being 3,585*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* in excess of the corresponding receipt of the year 1889, and 1,030*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* in excess of the assessment for 1890. This arose in part through the increased assessment before referred to, and partly through the collection of deficits from previous years.

The revenue from native taxes forms 31·09 per centum of the total revenue of the year.

The taxes were contributed principally in copra and sugar cane, but maize, tobacco, yams, yagona (macra piper mythisticum) and beche de mer were also received.

The sale of this produce realized, in addition to the sum of 20,770*l.* contributed to the public revenue, and the cost of the freight of the produce from the provinces to the port of sale, a

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sum of 4,315*l.*, which was returned to the districts that had made contributions in excess of their assessment.

The items of direct taxation (*i.e.* Customs dues, native taxes, general licences, and stamp duties) amount in the aggregate to 52,175*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, which forms the proportion of 78·09 per cent. of the total revenue.

The revenue from direct taxation is equal to eight shillings and sevenpence (8*s.* 7*d.*) per head of the total population.

The revenue derived from sources other than taxation amounts to 14,641*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, which is equal to 21·91 per cent. of the total revenue, or two shillings and fivepence (2*s.* 5*d.*) per head of population.

The total revenue of the colony is thus nearly equal to 11*s.* per head of the population.

Expenditure.

The following statement shows the expenditure for the year 1890 as compared with the previous year.

Division.	1890.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	*£ s. d.*	*£ s. d.*	*£ s. d.*
1. Civil Establishments - -	19,398 19 4	17,047 4 6	2,351 14 10	—
Contingent Expenditure -	30,503 8 11	30,614 10 5	—	111 1 6
2. Judicial Establishments -	5,800 6 1	5,171 16 4	628 9 9	—
Contingent Expenditure -	1,412 6 1	1,290 16 8	121 9 5	—
3. Miscellaneous Expenditure	3,446 16 5	3,335 14 4	111 2 1	—
4. Pensions - - - -	264 9 8	250 0 0	14 9 8	—
	60,826 6 6	57,710 2 3	3,227 5 9	111 1 6
Net Increase - -	—	—	3,116 4 3	—

The increased expenditure under the heading of establishments, as compared with the previous year, arises from the fact that from the beginning of the year 1890 the salaries of officers were paid in full, the special salary tax which "in order to equalise revenue and expenditure" had been imposed during the previous three years having been abolished as from 1st January, 1890. The medical staff was kept up to its full strength during the year, whereas there were several vacancies in the staff during the year 1889.

The excess of the actual over the estimated expenditure, amounting to 1,541*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, arose mainly (1) from the payment of salaries at full rates, (2) from the refunding of 592*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* being one quarter of the tax imposed on official salaries during the year 1889, (3) the granting of a subsidy of 650*l.* in order

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to retain the services of an interinsular steamer within the group.

The total expenditure is equal to a fraction over 10*s.* per head of the population.

II. MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL PUBLIC BODIES.

The town and school boards of the towns of Suva and Levuka are the only local bodies in the Colony who have authority to levy rates.

The town boards control the roads, lighting and general sanitary affairs of the towns and are empowered to levy a general rate not to exceed one shilling per annum per pound of rental on buildings and lands within the boundaries of the towns and a rate for special purposes, which also may not exceed one shilling per pound of rental.

Government sanitary grants of 150*l.* and 100*l.* respectively were paid to the towns of Suva and Levuka during the year.

Until the end of the year 1890, the town boards also performed the duties of school boards within their respective districts. The schools were maintained by fees, by rates amounting on an average to about sixpence per pound on the rental of the towns, and by Government grant equal to the estimated amount of rates.

Government grants of 245*l.* and 166*l* 13*s.* respectively were paid to the school boards of Suva and Levuka.

The gross revenue and expenditure of those boards for the past year are shown in the following statement:—

Board.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Suva Town Board - - -	1,487 7 10	1,397 13 6
„ School Board - - -	604 5 1	554 5 1
Levuka Town Board - -	746 7 9	691 2 11
„ School Board - -	391 9 4	358 18 1
Total - -	3,229 10 0	3,001 19 7

There is no local public debt.

III.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The total amount of Public debt at the end of the year was 248,989*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

The debt was reduced during the year by the statutory liquidation.

Particulars of the amounts borrowed and of the manner in which they have been expended will be found in the Report on the Blue Book of last year (Colonial Possessions Report No. 116).

The public debt is equal to 2*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* per head of the population; or to nearly four years revenue.

In addition to the public debt there was a floating indebtedness at 31st December 1890 amounting to 13,905*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

During the past three years the floating indebtedness (which has accrued in previous years owing to the excess of expenditure over revenue) has been reduced by the surplus revenue which has amounted in the aggregate to 18,028*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

The amount of 13,905*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* still outstanding, will, it is hoped, be wiped out within the next few years, although it can hardly be expected that the annual surplus of six thousand pounds, which has been maintained during the past three years, can be continued, inasmuch as expenditure on public works, which has been postponed from year to year, cannot with any regard to economy be longer delayed.

IV.—Public Works.

The following statement indicates the nature and extent of the operations of the Public Works Department during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Constructing and repairing roads in the vicinity of Suva - - - - -				386	4	0
2. Repair to Wharfs:—						
Suva Wharf - -	110	6	4			
Levuka Wharf - -	274	11	1			
				384	17	5
3. Repairs and Additions:—						
Repairs to Government offices	353	3	2			
Repairs to Government House	221	19	0			
Water supply to Suva -	40	1	4			
Repairs and provision of stipendary magistrates' quarters -	313	3	2			
Repairs to gaol, hospital, - depot, &c.	318	2	0			
				1,346	8	8
4 Repair and upkeep of lighthouses -				545	15	6
5. Constructing Suva native market in addition to the sum of 308*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* contributed by the natives) - - - -				148	12	10
6. Upkeep of Botanic Station - - - -				222	9	8
Total - -				£3,034	8	1

V.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances have been passed by the Legislative Council during the year :—

Ordinances.

No. I.—To authorise the expenditure of 3,688*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, for the service of the year ending the 31st day of December 1889 in excess of the amount already sanctioned by Ordinance.

No. II.—To amend the Law relating to the Fraudulent Marking of Merchandise.

No. III.—To indemnify all persons in respect of anything done under "The Marine Board Ordinances, 1880 to 1888."

No. IV.—Relating to Polynesian Immigrants indentured prior to the 1st day of January 1889.

No. V.—To appropriate a sum not exceeding 63,716*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* for the service of the year ending the 31st day of December in the year of our Lord 1891.

No. VI.—To create the Wardens of Towns Justices of the Peace.

No. VII.—To regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native taxes.

No. VIII.—To amend Ordinance No. V., 1889, intituled "An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance, No. XXXI. of 1876, intituled 'An Ordinance for the Regulation of a force of Armed Native Constabulary,' and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

No. IX.—For taking the Census.

No. X.—To amend the Divorce Ordinances, 1883 to 1889.

No. XI.—To amend and declare the Law relating to Masters and Servants.

No. XII.—To amend "The Postal Ordinance, 1877."

No. XIII.—To amend "The Native Labour Ordinance, 1883 and 1886."

No. XIV.—To provide for Public Education.

Ordinance No. II. assimulates the Law of the Colony with the Imperial law relating to the Fraudulent Marking of Merchandise.

Ordinance No. IV. regulates the payment of the cost of Return Passage of Polynesian Immigrants who were introduced under the old Immigration Law ; but who would fall to be re-indentured under the new Ordinance.

Ordinance No. VII. makes more clear the status and duties of the District and Provincial Boards of Assessment.

Ordinance No. X. fixes the fee to be paid on presentation of petitions for Divorce.

Ordinance No. XI. re-enacts, with some desirable alterations, the tentative Ordinance of 1888 declaring the Law relating to Masters and Servants.

Ordinance No. XII. makes provision for the establishment of of the Parcel-post, for the issue of postal notes, of postcards and stamped envelopes, and for the payment of masters of unsubsidised foreign-going vessels for the carriage of mails.

Ordinance No. XIII. simplifies the mode of recruiting native labourers, provides penalties for bribery in connection therewith, improves the Law relating to the rationing and housing of native labourers, and to the manner in which they are to be paid off and returned to their homes.

Ordinance No. XIV. provides for the establishment and election of separate School Boards within constituted districts for the compulsory and free education of the children belonging to such districts, for the payment of a Government grant on average attendance between the age of 6 and 13, for the levying of rates in aid of education, and for the management of public schools, generally.

VI.—COUNCILS.

The only alteration in the membership of the Council was the appointment of Mr. George Smith, of Levuka, to be a member of the Legislative Council, in the place of Mr. George Morgan, who has resigned.

VII.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following are the principal alterations that were made during the year:—

Mr. James Stewart was promoted from the post of Chief Clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Office to that of Assistant Colonial Secretary.

A junior clerk was appointed to the audit and one to the Treasury Departments, to relieve the pressure of work there.

Mr. Joseph Ogilvie Forth was appointed to be Chief Clerk of the Audit Office, *vice* Mr. Herbert George Brown, deceased.

Mr. G. A. F. W. Beauclerc was appointed to be Clerk of Native Accounts in place of Mr. Forth.

Mr. John R. Farewell, Stipendiary Magistrate for the provinces of Macuata and Bua, was appointed to be Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Walter J. F. Hopkins, Cashier for Immigration Accounts, was appointed to succeed Mr. Farewell as Stipendiary Magistrate of Macuata and Bua.

Mr. Frederick Sydney Henry, Assistant Commissioner of Colo West, was appointed to be Cashier of Immigration Accounts and Clerk in the Treasuary.

Mr. George Wright was appointed to be Sergeant-major of Armed Native Constabulary and Inspector of Native Tax Plantations in Colo West.

Mr. I. H. Groom was promoted from the office of Clerk in the Post Office at Levuka to be Postmaster there.

Dr. G. W. A. Lynch took office as the fifth District Medical Officer.

Mr. W. L. Allardyce, Stipendiary Magistrate for Namosi, Serua, and Kadavu was appointed to be Assistant Native Commissioner, and also to retain the post of Stipendiary Magistrate of Kadavu.

Mr. Basil H. Thomson was appointed a Commissioner to enquire into the ownership of Native Lands.

Mr. C. R. Swayne, Stipendiary Magistrate at Lau, was appointed to be also Assistant Native Commissioner in Lau and Inspector of Taxes in that province.

Mr. Alfred Barrack was appointed to be Instructor in Boatbuilding at Yanawai Technical School.

Four European and twelve native officers resigned; two European and ten native officers were dismissed; and five native officers died during the year.

Sick leave was granted during the year to three officers, one of whom, Mr. Herbert George Brown, Chief Clerk of the Audit Office, died on the 11th May in Sydney; and another has since permanently resigned his appointment through the breaking down of his health.

Leave of absence has been granted to two officers during the year, to one of them on urgent private affairs, and to the other in order that he might assist the Government of the King of Tonga in establishing the finances and internal government of that kingdom on a satisfactory basis.

The exigencies of the public service have been such during the year that leave of absence, in the ordinary sense of that term, has been practically unobtainable. This condition of things has now existed for four years, during which period the service has been so sparsely manned that the temporary illness of any officer (an event of fortunately rare occurrence) carries with it the probability of throwing the machinery of his department completely out of gear.

Thirty-two officers gave security in the aggregate sum of 6,700*l.* for the due discharge of their duties.

No addition was made to the Pension List.

VIII.—POPULATION.

A complete return of the population at the end of the year 1890 has not been obtained, as the provincial department have been unable to furnish the statistics relating to the native population.

The following return gives, in a comparative form, the population of the Colony as ascertained at the census of 1881, and at the recent census of 5th April 1891 :—

—	1891.			1881.				
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
Europeans - - -	1,273	763	2,036	1,879	792	2,671	—	635
Half-castes - - -	529	547	1,076	387	384	771	305	—
Indians - - - -	4,998	2,470	7,468	388	200	588	6,880	—
Polynesians - - -	1,923	344	2,267	5,629	471	6,100	—	3,833
Fijians - - - -	56,445	49,355	105,800	60,899	53,849	114,748	—	8,948
Rotumans - - -	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,126	1,326	2,452	—	233
Others - - -	143	171	314	93	63	156	158	—
Total - -	66,367	54,813	121,180	70,401	57,085	127,486	7,343	13,649

Net decrease 6,306.

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From the foregoing return it will be seen that, during the decade, a decrease has occurred among the European, Polynesian, Fijian and Rotuman elements of the population, amounting in the aggregate to 13,649; and that there has been a total increase of half-castes, Indians and others of 7,343, giving a net decrease of 6,306.

The decrease of Polynesians is accounted for by the fact that on sugar-cane plantations Polynesian labour has been displaced by that of the Indian immigrants, who have been found more suitable for the work.

The provincial department do not believe that the decrease of the native population has amounted to 8,948 during the decade.

The enumeration made in 1879 put the native population at 108,924 souls. The census of 1881 returned the native population at 114,748 souls, or an increase during the two years of 5,711. Such an increase certainly did not take place, and it is now believed that the census of 1881 was not an accurate one. It was then the desire of the various divisions of the native population to make themselves appear as numerous and important as possible; but, by the time the census of 1891 came to be taken, it had dawned on the native mind that the assessment of the taxes of the several provinces would be effected by the ascertained number of the population.

I give these views for what they are worth. But the quarterly returns of births, deaths, and marriages furnished to the provincial department during the decade (which may be regarded as approximately correct) indicate a total decrease of some 4,500 souls.

The following point, however, is worthy of consideration, as the returns of the missions at work in the Colony are entitled to the greatest respect.

In 1881, when the native population was returned at 114,748, (the total population of the Colony being 127,486) the Ecclesiastical returns showed the following number of Church adherents, viz.:—

Wesleyan Mission - - - -	102,736
Roman Catholic Mission - - -	9,000
Total - - - -	111,736

being about three thousand less than the enumerated native population.

In 1891, when the enumeated native population amounts to 105,800 (the total population being 121,180), the ecclesiastical returns show the adherents of the two missions to be as follows:—

Wesleyan Mission - - - -	103,829
Roman Catholic Mission - - -	10,402
Total - - - -	114,231

These numbers have increased notwithstanding the apparent decrease of population.

But the ecclesiastical returns embrace a portion of the non-Fijian population of the Colony. Let it be conceded that the following proportions of the non-Fijian population are so included:—

Europeans (say) - - - -	1,000
Half-castes (all) - - - -	1,076
Indians (say) - - - - -	100
Polynesians (say) - - - -	600
Rotumans (all) - - - -	2,219
Others (all) - - - - -	314
Total - - - - -	5,309

The foregoing allowance is an ample one, and if the number thus obtained be deducted from the total number of Wesleyan and Roman Catholic adherents in the Colony the number of native Fijian Church adherents should be arrived at.

The total number of Church adherents is -	114,231
Deduct the non-Fijian element - -	5,309
No of Fijian adherents - - -	108,922

This number is in excess of the Fijian population returned at the census by 5,122.

Hence it would appear that either the ecclesiastical returns or the census returns are in error to, at least, that extent.

The following table, giving the population of the various islands so far as the information can be ascertained from the returns received, may be of interest:—

CENSUS OF FIFTH APRIL, 1891.

RETURN showing the POPULATION of the various ISLANDS of the COLONY.

Island Homestead of	Europeans and other Whites.			Half-castes.			Indians.			Polynesians.			Fijians.			Others.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Viti Levu - -	860	527	1,387	218	211	429	4,763	2,352	7,115	1,268	195	1,463	30,974	26,988	57,962	75	82	157	38,158	30,355	68,513
Vanua Levu -	111	55	166	105	131	236	41	20	61	82	21	103	9,663	8,503	18,166	10	6	16	10,012	8,736	18,748
Taviuni - -	52	32	84	35	34	69	149	78	227	205	51	256	941	593	1,534	2	2	4	1,384	790	2,174
Kadavu - -	12	6	18	11	23	34	..	..	..	5	..	5	3,549	3,289	6,838	..	..	..	3,577	3,318	6,895
Lau, Totoya - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	344	262	606	..	..	..	344	262	606
" Cicia - -	4	..	4	3	..	3	..	..	..	8	..	8	195	176	371	..	2	2	210	178	388
" Matuku -	1	..	1	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	352	292	644	..	..	..	354	294	648
" Vulaga -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215	199	414	..	..	..	215	199	414
" Moala - -	3	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	390	353	743	..	..	..	393	354	747
" Kabara -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	279	309	588	..	..	..	279	309	588
" Oreata - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	64	133	..	..	..	69	64	133
" Nayau -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121	119	240	..	..	..	121	119	240
" Ono - -	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273	233	506	..	..	..	274	233	507
Carried forward -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

RETURN showing the POPULATION of the various ISLANDS of the COLONY—*continued.*

Island Homestead of	Europeans and other Whites.			Half-castes.			Indians.			Polynesians.			Fijians.			Others.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Brought forward																					
Lau, Lakeba	6	3	9	3	3	6	..	..	..	4	1	5	534	435	969	..	..	..	547	442	989
" Moce	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	79	177	..	..	..	98	79	177
" Cikobia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	9	21	..	..	..	12	9	21
" Tuvuca	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	28	61	..	..	..	33	28	61
" Vanua Balaac	20	5	25	10	18	28	17	3	20	125	29	154	723	548	1,271	1	2	3	896	605	1,501
" Mango																					
" Susui	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	28	64	..	..	..	36	28	64
" Yavea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	41	76	..	..	..	35	41	76
Kadavu Dravuni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	41	81	..	..	..	40	41	81
" Bulia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	33	81	..	..	..	48	33	81
" Galoa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	65	135	..	..	..	70	65	135
Bega	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	387	338	725	..	..	..	387	338	725
Serua Yanuca	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	91	200	..	..	..	109	91	200
" Serua	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	83	155	..	..	..	72	83	155
Nadrago Vatulele	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	191	157	348	..	..	..	191	157	348
Carried forward	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

RETURN showing the POPULATION of the various ISLANDS of the COLONY—*continued.*

Island Homestead of	Europeans and other Whites.			Half-castes.			Indians.			Polynesians.			Fijians.			Others.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Brought forward																					
Nadroga, Malolo -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159	151	310	..	..	..	159	151	310
Ra Malake -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	43	81	..	..	..	38	43	81
Jaileon Qoma -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	28	70	..	..	..	42	28	70
" Bau -	5	4	9	6	1	7	1	..	1	2	..	2	319	245	564	..	1	1	333	251	584
" Vuva -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	48	112	..	..	..	64	48	112
" Naigani -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	21	57	..	..	..	36	21	57
Lomai Viti Wakaya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	8	11	..	11	..	..	..	19	..	19
" Nairai -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	242	260	502	..	..	..	242	260	502
" Gau -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	927	828	1,755	..	..	..	927	828	1,755
" Ovalau -	192	128	320	129	118	247	19	12	31	206	41	247	1,037	923	1,960	53	76	129	1,636	1,298	2,934
" Batiki -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	161	157	318	..	..	..	161	157	318
" Moturiki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	286	250	536	..	..	..	289	250	536
" Koro -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	706	634	1,340	..	..	..	706	634	1,340
Cukandrove Yacata	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	41	107	..	..	..	66	41	107
" Yanuca -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	8	22	..	..	..	14	8	22
Carried forward -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

RETURN showing the POPULATION of the various ISLANDS of the COLONY—*continued.*

Island Homestead of	Europeans and other Whites.			Half-castes.			Indians.			Polynesians.			Fijians.			Others.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Brought forward																					
Cukandrove Nagelelevu.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	11	22	..	..	..	11	11	22
„ Qamea -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	242	209	451	..	..	..	242	209	451
„ Laucala -	2	3	5	3	2	5	..	..	..	2	2	4	5	1	6	..	..	..	12	8	20
„ Rabi -	1	..	1	..	..	..	7	5	12	8	3	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	8	24
Bua Yadua -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	43	95	..	..	..	52	43	95
„ Yaqaga -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	17	40	..	..	..	23	17	40
„ Javea - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	56	103	..	..	..	47	56	103
„ Galoa -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	97	188	..	..	..	91	97	188
Macuata Macuata-iwai.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	52	112	..	..	..	60	52	112
„ Kia -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	83	167	..	..	..	84	83	167
„ Jutu -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	16	..	..	..	9	7	16
„ Kavewa -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	37	61	..	..	..	24	37	61
„ Namukalan (approximate)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	14	30	..	..	..	16	14	30
Carried forward -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Return showing the population of the various Islands of the Colony—*continued.*

Island Homestead of	Europeans and other Whites.			Half-castes.			Indians.			Polynesians.			Fijians.			Others.			Total.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Brought forward																					
Macuata Gevo -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7	17	..	..	..	10	7	17
„ Druadrua -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	15	43	..	..	..	28	15	43
„ Mali -	1	..	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	115	113	228	2	..	2	121	113	234
„ Cikobia -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	101	199	..	..	..	98	101	199
„ Jelagica -	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Yasawa Nacula -	1	..	1	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	448	391	839	..	..	..	452	394	846
„ Viwa -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	114	249	..	..	..	135	114	249
„ Waya -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	329	318	647	..	..	..	329	318	647
„ Naviti -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	374	349	723	..	..	..	374	949	723
„ Yasawa -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	383	327	710	..	..	..	383	327	710
Kotumah - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,056	1,163	2,219
Total - -	1,273	763	2,036	529	547	1,076	4,998	2,470	7,468	1,923	344	2,267	56,445	49,355	105,800	1,199	1,334	2,533	66,367	54,813	121,180

IX.—IMMIGRATION.

The introduction and return of Indian and Polynesian Immigrants have been as follows:—

Indians arrived	1,161
Polynesians arrived	200
Total	1,361
Indians returned home	149
Polynesians returned home	119
Total	268
Increase during the year	1,093

The total number of Indians and Polynesians in the Colony is shown under the head of Population.

X.—ECCLESIASTICAL RETURN.

The following statistics are supplied by the Wesleyan and the Roman Catholic missions.

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches	934
Other preaching places	396
European missionaries	10
Native ministers	69
Catechists	51
Teachers	1,126
Local preachers	1,825
Class leaders	3,433
Church members (English and Native)	29,161
On trial for membership	5,229
Communicants	14
Catechumens	5,098
Day schools	1,946
Day school scholars	40,574
Day school teachers	2,493
Sabbath schools	1,738
Sabbath school scholars	40,532
Sabbath school teachers	2,648
Adherents	103,829

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries - - -	18
Churches and chapels - - -	76
Training institutions (European) - -	3
„ „ (Native) - -	6
Native teachers - - - -	160
European sisters - - -	19
Adherents - - - -	10,402

XI.—EDUCATION.

The average attendance at the English Public Schools during the year has been:—

——	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Suva School - - -	39	40	79
Levuka - - -	41	36	77
Total - - -	—	—	156

Sixty selected native youths have received tuition during the year at the Yanawai Technical School. The subjects comprise primary education, boat-building, carpenter work, and planting.

XII.—PUBLICATIONS.

The following is a return of the newspapers published in the Colony, with their reputed circulation:—

"Fiji Times," issued twice a week at Suva; circulation, 600.

"Levuka Times," issued at Levuka once a week; circulation, 120.

"Wa Mata," Fijian newspaper, published by the Colonial Government at Suva monthly. In this paper is printed all native regulations, Government notices, changes in appointments, and other matters of an official character, of which the native population would otherwise obtain only very tardy notice; circulation, 450.

"Fiji Royal Gazette," published at Suva about five times per month; circulation, 175.

XIII.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The following table shows:

(1.) The average for the 12 years, ending with the year 1886, of the annual import and export trade.

(2.) The proportion which the imports (*a*) for use in the Colony (*b*) for exportation; and exports (*a*) the produce of the Colony (*b*) imported for exportation, bear to the total trade for the same period.

(3.) The total import and export trade for each of the four years ending with 1890.

(4.) The proportion which, during the four years, each division bears to the total trade.

TOTAL TRADE OF THE COLONY.

—	Imports.			Exports.			
	For use in the Colony.	Imported for Exportation.	Total.	Product of the Colony.	Imported Produce Exported.	Total.	Total Trade.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average for the 12 years from 1875 to 1886 inclusive	231,574 12 0	27,878 17 5	259,453 9 5	188,500 19 4	28,357 14 6	216,853 13 10	476,312 3 3
Proportion which for that period each division bears to the Total Trade	48·62 per cent.	5·85 per cent.	54·47 per cent.	39·58 per cent.	5·95 per cent.	45.53 per cent.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Year 1887	177,587 6 0	10,484 0 6	188,071 6 6	270,611 9 3	10,468 17 6	281,080 6 9	469,151 13 3
" 1888	175,155 19 5	8,065 16 9	183,221 16 2	368,912 7 5	8,065 16 9	376,978 4 2	560,200 0 4
" 1889	188,339 7 1	1,053 14 0	189,393 1 1	363,227 16 6	1,053 14 0	364,281 12 6	553,674 13 7
" 1890	195,9[illegible] 6 1	10,776 3 4	206,757 9 5	353,756 9 6	10,776 3 4	364,532 12 10	571,290 2 3
Total for the four years	737,063 18 7	30,379 14 7	767,443 13 2	1,356,508 4 8	30,364 11 7	1,386,872 16 3	2,154,316 9 5
Average for the four years	184,265 19 8	7,594 18 8	191,860 18 3	339,127 1 2	7,591 2 11	3 6,718 4 1	538,579 2 4
Proportion which for the four years each division bears to the Total Trade	34·21 per cent.	1·41 per cent.	35·62 per cent.	62·97 per cent.	1.41 per cent.	64·38 per cent.	

It will be seen from the foregoing Table that, for the four past years, imports formed 35·62 per cent. and exports 64·38 per cent. of the total trade.

The aggregate value of imports during the sixteen years since the foundation of the Colony has been 3,880,885*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*; the value of exports during the same period being 3,989,177*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

During the sixteen years, the value of exports has exceeded that of imports by 108,291*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

The value of exports of the past four years, however, has exceded that of imports by 619,429*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* or at the rate of nearly 155,000*l.* per annum.

The division of the Trade of the Colony is shewn in the following statements :—

TOTAL TRADE OF THE COLONY WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Return showing the Total Value of Imports into Fiji from the different Countries for the Year ending 31*st December* 1890.

Country.	Dutiable. £ s. d.	Free. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
Austria	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
Ellice Island	—	1,119 0 0	1,119 0 0
Futuna	—	562 10 0	562 10 0
India	2,547 5 2	2,511 10 6	5,058 15 8
Line Islands	2 12 0	1 0 0	3 12 0
New Britain	—	2,997 0 0	2,997 0 0
New Caledonia	198 7 11	2 0 0	200 7 11
New Hebrides	372 16 5	18 14 0	391 10 5
New South Wales	94,584 13 10	35,030 6 0	129,614 19 10
New Zealand	20,870 7 9	21,679 19 7	42,550 7 4
Samoa	53 16 11	2,856 19 4	2,910 16 3
South Australia	20 0 0	200 0 0	220 0 0
Tonga	44 6 10	—	44 6 10
United States	1,041 11 6	—	1,041 11 6
Victoria	8,109 9 2	8,619 2 6	16,728 11 8
Wallis Island	—	3,313 0 0	3,313 0 0
Totals	127,846 7 6	78,911 1 11	206,757 9 5

Return showing the Value of Exports to the several Countries for the Year ending 31*st December* 1890.

Country.	Value. £ s. d.
Ellice Island	5 8 8
France	27,087 18 10
Line Islands	9 12 0
New Hebrides	45 3 1
New South Wales	67,388 12 10
New Zealand	210,528 2 3
Portugal	4,684 13 4
Samoa	134 10 0
Spain	113 11 0
Tonga	129 7 0
Victoria	54,405 13 10
Total	364,532 12 10

The total trade of the Colony with the countries dealt with in 1890 was in the following proportions:—

Country.	Total Trade. £	Percentage.
New South Wales	197,004	34·48
Victoria	71,134	12·45
South Australia	220	·04
New Zealand	253,078	44·30
Total, Australian Colonies	521,436	—
India	5,059	·88
United Kingdom	—	—
Samoa	3,046	·53
Tonga	174	·03
Portugal	4,685	·82
France	27,088	4·74
Other Countries	9,802	1·71
Total	571,290	

FIJI.

As there was no direct communication with the United Kingdom during the year the trade between the United Kingdom and the Colony passed through the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.

The following Returns will exhibit the division of the Trade of the Colony between British Possessions and Foreign Countries.

Total Value of Imports from British Possessions, Polynesian Islands, and other Countries.

—	1887.			1888.			1889.			1890.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From British Possessions -	174,547	3	8	174,244	8	0	186,418	18	5	194,172	14	6
From Polynesian Islands -	10,288	17	7	8,781	16	2	1,179	6	4	8,300	8	8
From other Countries -	3,235	5	3	195	12	0	1,794	16	4	4,284	6	3
Total - -	188,071	6	6	183,221	16	2	189,393	1	1	206,757	9	5

Value of Total Exports to British Possessions and to other Countries respectively.

—	1887.			1888.			1889.			1890.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Exported to British Possessions - - - -	268,554	4	8	341,446	10	10	335,857	15	6	332,322	8	11
Exported to other countries	12,526	2	1	35,531	13	4	28,423	17	0	32,210	3	11
Total - -	281,080	6	9	376,978	4	2	364,281	12	6	364,532	12	10

The accounts of imports and exports are exclusive of specie and bullion.

The Trade with the Australasian Colonies during the past four years, has been as follows —

Trade with the Australasian Colonies.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1887 - - - - -	153,544	263,545
1888 - - - - -	172,423	341,437
1889 - - - - -	185,976	335,858
1890 - - - - -	189,114	332,322

Fiji.

The nature and value of the principal imports are shown in the following Table.

Nature of Import.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,363	1,160	1,414	1,317
2. Bags and sugar mats	4,749	4,961	4,785	5,879
3. Beer	3,891	2,948	2,987	2,298
4. Boots and shoes	4,010	2,980	2,897	3,171
5. Breadstuffs and biscuits	10,879	10,144	16,114	14,086
6. Butter	2,281	1,453	1,271	1,712
7. Cordage	980	1,532	1,705	1,509
8. Cigars	582	664	727	830
9. Coals	9,657	5,611	6,550	9,736
10. Doors and sashes	188	123	290	179
11. Drapery	40,574	48,075	42,899	37,940
12. Drugs	2,088	1,863	1,978	2,294
13. Fish	1,758	1,613	1,999	1,755
14. Fruits, bottled and dried	634	522	564	517
15. Galvanised iron and goods	1,539	1,854	2,829	2,916
16. Glassware and crockery	1,855	1,631	2,334	2,505
17. Hardware	16,519	12,957	14,560	15,293
18. Iron, bar, rod	499	404	357	679
19. Iron, rails and pipes	229	755	554	234
20. Jams and jellies	519	473	540	450
21. Jewellery	971	883	1,186	1,326
22. Live stock	3,591	4,000	4,001	4,109
23. Machinery	9,613	8,112	4,048	7,121
24. Manure	551	2,659	8,132	10,983
25. Meats	6,733	8,282	7,948	9,169
26. Musical instruments	498	547	335	525
27. Oils	5,468	5,280	4,889	6,031
28. Pickles and oilstores	2,486	1,734	1,756	1,711
29. Paints	1,174	1,062	1,911	1,012
30. Produce	5,877	5,868	2,903	4,333
31. Rice	7,951	8,298	11,451	10,193
32. Ship chandlery	1,849	2,039	2,931	2,526
33. Soap	1,715	1,767	1,585	1,557
34. Spirits	3,260	2,854	2,817	2,758
35. Stationery	2,427	2,148	2,490	2,338
36. Sugar	26	27	718	1,292
37. Tea	1,149	441	238	123
38. Timber	3,032	2,839	5,426	4,094
39. Tobacco	904	981	1,163	1,240
40. Vegetables and green fruits	1,856	2,000	2,866	2,298
41. Wines	987	716	1,166	896
42. Woodenware and furniture	2,257	2,964	2,746	4,792
43. Other imports	18,902	15,998	9,332	8,802

The principal increase of imports during the past year has been on bags and mats, coal, machinery and meats (all of which are duty-free articles) and on oils, produce, and hardware, woodenware and furniture, which are dutiable.

The principal decreases have occurred on beer, bread-stuffs, drapery, paints and rice.

The export trade of the Colony depends for its existence on three staple industries, viz.—sugar, copra (the dried kernel of the cocoanut), and fruit (bananas and pineapples).

Copra, cotton (Sea Island), and maize were the principal exports at the date of the annexation of the Colony, but the export of maize was soon displaced by that of sugar. Cotton continued to be the third export in point of value until about 1882, after which it gradually subsided until 1888, when only 3½ tons were exported. Since that date the cultivation of kidney cotton has revived, and now gives every indication of rapid expansion.

In the meantime the fruit trade with the neighbouring Australasian Colonies had arisen, after the establishment, through Government subsidy, of steam communication with Sydney; and has increased year by year until it now ranks as the export second only in importance to sugar.

The quantity and value of fruit exported during the past four years were as follows:—

Year.	Total value.	Fruits—Dried and Preserved.	Green Fruits.	
			Bananas.	Pine-apples and Bananas.
	£	Cases.	Bunches.	Cases.
1890 - - -	57,563	80	720,788	5,777
1889 - - -	42,605	100	531,008	4,499
1888 - - -	42,448	211	517,666	4,668
1887 - - -	31,047	546	359,294	6,105

The fruit consists almost entirely of bananas and pineapples, but there is a small export of oranges, limes, lemons, citrons, granadillas, &c. which might well be extended.

The following Table, which shews the quantity and value of the three staple exports above mentioned for each year since

Annexation, will illustrate the expansion of the Trade of the Colony:—

Year.	Sugar.		Fruit	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1875 - - -	96	3,417	97	3,871	40,058
1876 - - -	265	10,433	129	4,178	46,2[illegible]
1877 - - -	482	16,170	507	6,348	79,865
1878 - - -	548	18,641	2,098	8,40[illegible]	122,764
1879 - - -	785	26,687	3,150	4,146	61,967
1880 - - -	593	20,920	5,216	7,339	109,758
1881 - - -	684	23,254	5,470	7,532	87,084
1882 - - -	1,731	58,587	9,140	6,979	66,672
1883 - - -	5,163	175,555	15,428	6,281	81,772
1884 - - -	8,729	218,224	19,710	5,643	69,642
1885 - - -	10,586	211,729	23,961	5,235	64,390
1886 - - -	11,716	187,456	23,059	5,217	49,564
1887 - - -	12,831	205,294	31,026	1,957	12,356
1888 - - -	16,916	270,649	42,448	4,219	41,065
1889 - - -	13,178	263,553	42,605	5,663	41,543
1890 - - -	15,291	244,655	57,563	4,657	42,901

The other principal Colonial-grown exports in 1890 consisted of:—

		£
Beche de Mer, 63 tons 13 cwt. -	valued at	3,183
Desiccated cocoanut, 25½ tons -	"	1,428
Cotton kidney, 27 tons 7 cwt. -	"	1,277
Peanuts, 242 tons 16 cwt. - -	"	4,533
Tortoiseshell, 1 ton 4 cwt. - -	"	1,386
Colonial distilled spirits, 4,419 gallons	"	773
Wool, 7 tons 13 cwt. - -	"	717

Minor exports consist of Arrowroot, Bark, Fibre, Gum, Angora Hair, Hides (1,208), Maize, Mats, Molasses (2,600 Hogsheads), Pearl Shell, Plants and Seeds, Sandalwood, Tea, Tobacco, Turtles, and Yams.

XIV.—NAVIGATION.

The number of vessels entering the Ports of the Colony from abroad, during the year, was 79, with a total registered tonnage of 56,711 tons. The number of vessels cleared for places beyond the Colony was 89, with a total tonnage of 60,644.

The total number of vessels entering and clearing was thus 168, and the total tonnage 117,355.

FIJI.

The number and tonnage of vessels entering from abroad at the two ports of entry in the Colony during the past four years, distinguishing between steam and sailing vessels were as follows :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
1887 - - -	66	33,231	53	13,671	119	46,902
1888 - - -	71	39,750	35	9,829	106	49,579
1889 - - -	62	40,892	27	10,328	89	51,220
1890 - - -	60	49,306	19	7,405	79	56,711

The nationality of those vessels is shown below :—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Norwegian.		Tongan.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1887 - -	105	41,378	—	—	7	2,680	4	2,737	3	107
1888 - -	99	46,401	—	—	3	1,077	4	2,101	—	—
1889 - -	79	46,005	1	224	1	517	7	4,452	1	22
1890 - -	75	53,337	1	279	1	1,703	2	1,392	—	—

The total registered tonnage of vessels entering has increased during each of the past four years. There has, however, been a steady decrease in the number and tonnage of sailing vessels.

There are two ports of registry in the Colony—Suva and Levuka. At 31st December 1890 there were on the Levuka register 10 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of $431 \frac{42}{100}$ tons. There was no vessel on the Suva register.

The internal shipping of the Colony is conducted in small vessels of an average size of ten tons or under. The number of those vessels and their tonnage has increased year by year.

The following statement may be of interest :—

Statement of Sea-going Certificates issued by the Fiji Marine Board for the Four Years ending 31*st December* 1890.

Year.	European-owned Vessels.		Native-owned Vessels.		Total.	
	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1887 - - -	49	2,048	50	526	99	2,574
1888 - - -	74	1,433	148	1,073	222	2,506
1889 - - -	117	1,756	198	1,264	315	3,020
1890 - - -	137	2,221	246	1,687	383	3,908

The number and tonnage of both European and Native-owned vessels have been very considerably increased during the year. No reference is made in the foregoing statement to native canoes or craft of that description.

The following return will give an indication of the number of persons qualified to take charge of coasting vessels within the Colony.

Return of Certificates, Short-coasting Licenses, and Sailing Licenses issued by the Fiji Marine Board, to enable persons to sail vessels within the group, at 31*st December* 1890.

Description of Certificate or License.	Issued to					Total.
	Europeans.	Half Castes.	Natives.	Indians.	Other Persons.	
Certificates of competency	10	1	—	—	—	11
" " service	54	20	16	—	—	90
Short coasting licenses	16	3	20	4	1	44
Sailing licenses	—	46	233	1	3	283
Total	80	70	269	5	4	428

XV.—AGRICULTURE.

It is computed that there are 4,953,920 acres of land in the Colony.

The estimated acreage under cultivation by Europeans is 35,440½, under crop as follows:—

	Acres.
Arrowroot	30
Bananas and pineapples	2,407
Cotton	271
Coffee	11¾
Cocoanuts	18,513
Maize	315
Sugar cane	12,952
Tobacco	19½
Tapioca	23½
Yams and other produce	897¾
Total	35,440½

The transactions in land are shewn in the following return prepared by the Registrar of Titles. Attention is directed to the foot-notes thereto, which give explanations with regard to the number of transfers and to the amount of the consideration in cases of Crown Grants issuing and in certain cases of transfer.

FIJI.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of DEEDS registered in the OFFICE to 31st December 1890, with certain

Year.	Total No. of Deeds registered.	(1) Crown Grants.			(2) Transfers.				Transmissions.
		No.	Acreage.	Consideration.	No.	Acreage.	Consideration.	Stamp Duty.	
			a. r. p.			a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1877	213	153	48,765 2 11·15	—	17	10,168 2 34·9	3,689 12 0	22 13 6	—
1878	270	98	39,476 1 17·95	400	51 *	19,218 1 21·45	24,370 5 9	136 9 0	9
1879	218	52	23,558 3 32·60	1,900	28	6,813 1 24·6	7,723 18 8	43 5 0	2
1880	446	52	27,562 1 03·10	3,71[illegible]	64	28,400 3 11·53	24,063 4 9	164 2 6	3
1881	822	283	75,627 0 00·89	7,360	174	35,647 1 39·85	129,493 12 2	689 7 6	2
1882	776	247	65,745 2 09·50	6,783	111	44,390 0 32	102,890 4 11	540 15 6	2
1883	850	135	31,664 2 31·25	5,320	138	53,949 3 20·5	63,005 13 0	356 11 0	12
1884	776	97	38,325 1 20·4	391	105	28,015 1 03·4	49,609 8 5	265 0 0	12
1885	568	30	26,367 2 29·5	392	112	39,868 2 10·8	70,718 18 2	594 7 6	14
1886	429	41	14,042 1 5·6	95	83	39,368 1 19·85	65,138 10 8	349 0 0	11
1887	354	45	8,120 0 16·00	91	57	18,029 1 1·6	17,332 3 11	105 10 0	5
1888	425	16	6,300 1 8·6	—	85	42,138 0 5·35	33,633 8 11	161 4 6	13
1889	403	8	5,059 0 0	—	88	30,788 1 7·5	26,754 17 5	328 11 0	13
1890	419	6	2,824 3 15·00	—	97	18,103 3 38·65	48,240 3 7	256 17 0	14

---

* The Real Property Ordinance came into operation on this date.

(1) The greater number of grants were issued for a nominal consideration to Europeans due investigation as to title.

(2) A great number of these transfers were for lands under contract of sale prior to represent the present value of the land.

(3) Miscellaneous items include memoranda of endorsement from Commissioner of transfers of leases, of mortgages, &c.

of the Registrar of Titles during the Period from 15th March 1877,* particulars concerning the same

Certificates of Title.	Mortgages.		Released Mortgages.		Powers of Attorney.	Orders of Supreme Court.	Trusts.	Caveats.	Leases.	Surrenders of Leases.	(3) Miscellaneous.
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.							
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.							
10	7	13,972 10 0	—	—	5	—	4	8	3	—	6
47	26	30,502 0 0	—	—	8	3	2	9	15	—	2
28	25	19,205 15 3	—	—	8	3	5	13	23	—	31
63	46	32,475 15 8	31	13,464 16 0	12	4	6	16	12	6	131
164	52	61,237 3 8	27	21,925 8 0	18	4	5	21	22	5	45
115	68	136,967 15 0	49	57,963 13 11	18	11	2	55	49	—	49
159	69	76,806 2 11	49	20,163 4 6	32	17	4	61	58	5	111
115	65	57,991 13 0	41	24,793 4 9	22	16	2	76	92	19	114
114	36	30,398 18 8	43	44,305 4 6	12	11	1	54	39	13	89
91	18	10,900 10 0	42	33,728 9 0	7	6	3	35	24	7	61
59	19	43,923 13 11	27	9,302 19 4	7	4	1	33	35	14	53
133	14	21,685 16 6	23	21,819 19 4	17	6	—	22	32	5	59
107	23	118,775 0 1	34	79,066 2 8	9	3	2	15	40	9	52
135	18	22,775 0 0	24	19,014 12 1	9	3	3	13	46	5	52

and others, for lands acquired by them previous to annexation, and now confirmed after
annexation and now registered, the consideration is in these cases small, and does not
Lands, and notices to withdraw, and withdrawals and partial withdrawals of caveats; also

The following figures represent the number of live stock in the Colony, as ascertained at the census of 5th April, 1891 :—

Cattle - - - - -	8,549
Horses - - - - -	863
Asses - - - - -	7
Mules - - - - -	24
Sheep - - - - -	6,202
Goats - - - - -	4,687
Pigs (European-bred only) - -	1,857

XVI.—PRISONS.

The following Statistics of the Central Prisons are given in respect of the year 1890, the figures of the previous year being added to permit of comparison.

Class.	Committed to prison during 1890.				Total for 1889.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles	Total.	
Number of persons committed in 1890 for debt - - -	1	—	—	1	1
For fsae custody till trial, or for want of security - -	82	4	—	86	88
For purposes of penal imprisonment - - - -	564	54	—	618	624
Total - - - -	657	58	—	705	713

The daily average in prison during the past two years has been :—

——	1890.	1889.
Men - - - - -	191	171
Women - - - - -	5	6
Juveniles - - - - -	—	—
Total - -	196	177

Thirty prisoners were admitted to hospital during the year, in addition to those treated in the hospital wards of the prisons.

Five prisoners died in the course of the year, viz. one suicide, one by execution, and three from natural causes.

The cost of the prisons of the Colony during the past two years has been ;—

	£	s.	d.
Year 1889 - - -	2,241	1	5
„ 1890 - - -	2,362	11	6

XVII.—CRIME.

It will be seen from the following table of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the past four years, that there has been a sensible diminution of crime during the latter half of that period.

Comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years.

—	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
The number of offences reported to the police	—	—	—	—
The number of persons apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates	8,044	6,443	4,377	3,612
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	501	266	242	253
2. For larceny - - - - -	223	172	185	156
3. For offences against property other than larceny - - - -	73	115	233	155
4. For other offences - - - -	54,24	4,316	2,405	2,400
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against the person -	18	80	16	19
2. For larceny - - - - -	—	9	1	2
3. For offences against property - -	11	8	5	5
4. For other offences - - -	—	—	2	4
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,759	1,514	1,233	604
2. In the superior courts - - -	17	31	29	9

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XVIII.—COLONIAL HOSPITAL.

The following Statistics are given with reference to Suva Hospital:—

Return of Patients under treatment in the Colonial Hospital during the year 1890.

Nationality of Patients.	In Hospital at 1st January 1890.	Admitted during the year.	Total No. Treated.	Deaths.
				Per cent.
Europeans - -	2	21	23	2 = 9·5
Fijians - -	25	233	258	2 = 0·9
Polynesians - -	5	94	99	21 = 22·3
Indians - -	12	166	178	9 = 5·4
Miscellaneous - -	—	6	6	—
Total - -	44	520	564	34 = 6·03

There were discharged:—

Cured - - - -	238
Relieved - - - -	195
Not improved - - -	31

The principal diseases treated were Anæmia (37 cases, mostly in Indians); Dysentery (42 cases); Ulcers (simple, 33 cases) (strumous, 93 cases) for the most part in Fijians (syphilitic, 12 cases in Indians and Polynesians); Lupus (cutaneous, 15 cases) (Naso-pharyngal, 14 cases) in Natives; Frambœsia (23 cases, for the most part in Indians); Bronchitis (20 cases, 16 of which were in Indians).

XIX.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Eight patients were admitted during the year. The number discharged was:—

Cured - - - - -	1
Relieved - - - -	5
Total -	6

One patient died, of general paralysis and hypostatic pneumonia. Six patients remained in the Asylum at the close of the year.

XX.—METEOROLOGY.

The following returns are furnished by the Government meteorological observer:—

FIJI.

STATION.—SUVA, FIJI.

λ=178° 26′ 0″ E. φ=18° 8′ 0″ S. H. = 14.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.						
		Mean. 9 0 A.M.	Means of		Absolute Min. and Max.			
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.
January	29·921	82	74	87	72	25th, 27th	91	1st
February	29·727	81	75	85	71	4th	90	19th
March	29·947	80	74	86	72	12th, 14th, 16th	89	7th
April	29·940	81	73	87	70	7th	91	8th, 9th, 29th
May	30·004	80	72	83	68	26th	91	4th
June	30·069	78	69	81	64	24th, 25th, 26th	87	23rd
July	30·096	78	68	83	61	25th	89	19th
August	30·115	77	68	81	66	3rd, 4th, 9th	88	26th
September	30·064	77	71	81	68	4th	84	12th
October	30·012	79	72	82	66	14th	87	13th
November	29·987	79	73	83	69	23rd, 24th	90	29th
December	29·923	79	74	82	69	3rd	85	23rd, 24th, 31st
Year	29·984	79	72	83	64	—	91	—

STATION.—SUVA, FIJI.

$ht = 4$ ft. 0 in. $hr = 24$ ft. 0 in.

Months.	Amount of Cloud.	Rainfall.			Weather. No. of Days of							Wind. No. of Observations of								
	Mean. 9 0 A.M.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January -	5	21·92	5·83	24th	27	—	—	12	0	31	0	12	6	2	6	1	3	0	1	0
February -	2	6·99	1·51	1st	21	—	—	3	0	28	0	6	4	5	4	1	4	0	4	0
March - -	2	20·97	2·74	29th	29	—	—	7	2	29	0	8	14	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
April - -	4	4·15	1·03	23rd	25	—	—	4	5	26	0	6	6	9	2	3	4	0	0	0
May - -	6	10·41	2·36	12th	22	—	—	0	3	28	0	4	4	3	12	1	2	0	5	0
June - -	5	8·10	4·46	6th	17	—	—	0	4	26	0	3	0	12	9	3	0	1	2	0
July - -	2	0·29	0·23	20th	5	—	—	0	11	20	0	2	9	10	7	3	0	0	0	0
August - -	5	7·34	2·74	31st	14	—	—	1	0	31	0	5	1	13	10	1	1	0	0	0
September -	6	10·34	2·95	27th	25	—	—	4	0	30	0	6	3	7	13	1	0	0	0	0
October -	6	6·75	1·43	21st	21	—	—	3	0	31	0	2	3	12	9	0	1	2	2	0
November -	6	5·88	1·52	5th	24	—	—	0	1	29	0	2	5	11	8	0	1	0	3	0
December -	7	16·06	3·00	13th	27	—	—	0	0	30	1	1	6	11	10	1	2	0	0	0
Year -	4	119·20	5·83	24/1/90	257	—	—	34	263	339	1	57	61	101	93	15	18	3	17	0

Fiji.

XXI.—Postal.

The following statistics relating to the exchange of correspondence are furnished by the Colonial Postmaster :—

——	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.
Foreign Correspondence.				
Foreign letters received	43,113	41,854	43,044	42,410
„ „ despatched	39,164	39,047	37,498	27,302
Foreign newspapers received	72,808	65,628	68,336	77,558
„ „ despatched	11,394	12,912	16,856	14,222
Foreign books received	10,083	9,671	12,804	12,444
„ „ despatched	1,816	2,082	1,192	721
Foreign parcels received	125	—	—	—
„ „ despatched	nil	—	—	—
Local Correspondence.				
Interinsular letters received	34,902	34,223	37,863	22,869
„ „ despatched	42,517	43,695	43,589	46,778
Interinsular papers received	1,989	2,329	2,935	1,242
„ „ despatched	47,710	46,585	47,364	51,935
Interinsular books received	1,055	1,287	843	507
„ „ despatched	4,668	4,587	5,423	4,960

The origin and destination of foreign correspondence received and despatched during the year 1890 is given hereunder :—

——	Letters.	Papers.	Book packets.	Parcels.
Received.				
From United Kingdom	5,308	31,767	4,145	125
„ Australian Colonies and New Zealand.	36,257	39,198	5,212	—
„ Other Colonies	753	1,443	706	—
„ Elsewhere	800	400	20	—
Total received	43,118	72,808	10,083	125
Despatched.				
To the United Kingdom	5,269	2,441	525	—
„ Australian Colonies and New Zealand.	31,202	7,690	1,071	—
„ Other Colonies	2,093	1,100	200	—
„ Elsewhere	600	163	20	—
Total despatched	39,164	11,394	1,816	—

The parcel post between the United Kingdom and the Colony came into operation on 1st June 1890, and 125 parcels were received during the year. The rate of postage on parcels is for the present fixed at two shillings for the first two pounds, and one shilling for every additional pound.

Correspondence from Europe is received by two routes, viz. :—(1) viâ San Francisco and Auckland (in 43 days); and (2) viâ Brindisi and Sydney or Melbourne (in 50 days).

XXII.—General Observations.

The general condition of business affairs in the Colony at the close of the year was firmer and more substantial than at any time within the past ten years, and probably better, on the whole, than at any previous period in the history of the Colony. There is no indication that the general prosperity of the Colony is about to advance at any rapid rate; but it is felt that the period of depression has been weathered, and that, while many hopes have been painfully dispelled, the experience gained in other directions has improved the position of those enterprises which have been found to be stable.

There is, however, one cloud in the distance in the shape of the Banana disease, for which, up to the present, no reliable remedy has been found. The utmost vigilance is required in order to prevent its introduction on plantations; and its extinction when it once appears is a matter of the greatest difficulty, if not of impossibility. Unless some means of checking it be discovered, it is certain that in the near future the fruit trade (which if only the second industry of the Colony in point of value, is, nevertheless, the first so far as the local interests are concerned) will sustain a severe check. Some varieties of Bananas are less readily attacked by the disease than are others; and some fresh varieties are about to be introduced, in the hope that they may be found less susceptible of the disease than is the locally cultivated "China banana."

There are prospects that within a short time a large sugar mill will be at work on the Island of Vanua-levu; and it is also in contemplation to reduplicate the machinery of the second largest mill in the Colony.

There are still large tracts of land in the Nadi and Sigatoka districts of the Colony well adapted for the growth of sugar-cane on a large scale.

Experiments are being made in the cultivation of rice; and there is no climatic or other reason why rice should not be a successful and a profitable crop. The import of rice for local consumption has been of the annual value of 10,000*l.* for some years past, and as the cost of freight from India, or from any other place where it is grown, amounts to about 3*l.* per ton, the local cultivator should, even in the experimental stage of the industry, be able to compete favourably with the imported article. It is also to be hoped that the Natives might, if facilities for hulling the rice were at hand, be induced to cultivate and to use it. Its use would improve their stamina, a circumstance that cannot be looked for so long as their food consists mainly of tubers.

The cultivation of a superior class of tobacco, specially adapted for use as cigar-wrappers, is being entered on by a local joint-stock company.

The fibre of the *Furcræa gigantea* is also attracting attention. This Agave, which is plentifully dispersed throughout the Colony, yields a valuable fibre and may be cultivated with success on hill and waste lands. The price of the fibre in the London market ranges from 21*l.* to 28*l.* per ton.

Steps are also being taken to introduce the Sisal hemp industry.

The planting of Ramie or Rhea grass, from which a valuable fibre may be obtained, has also been commenced by at least one planter.

The cultivation of vanilla has been progressing for some time past, and the success that has attended the efforts of the cultivators leads to the expectation that this article will shortly appear on the list of exports.

J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

No. 72.

FIJI. 1891.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 45.)

Sir J. B. THURSTON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
January 9, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book for 1891, together with a carefully prepared report thereon by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Stewart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONY OF FIJI.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK: YEAR 1891.

I.—FINANCE.

The estimated and actual revenue and expenditure for the year 1891 stand as under:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Estimated - - -	65,376 0 0	63,716 5 4	1,659 14 8
Actual - - - -	71,249 18 11	67,819 17 7	3,430 1 4

The actual expenditure amounted to 60,973*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* which would have given a surplus of 10,276*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* This surplus was charged by way of extraordinary expenditure, with the sum of 6,846*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.*

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for the purpose of refunding to public officers the special tax which, during a period of financial difficulty, it had been found necessary to impose on official salaries.

The actual revenue and expenditure, with accruing surplus of deficit during each of the past six years, have been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1886 - -	64,574 1 1	78,133 8 2	—	13,559 7 1
1887 - -	64,916 2 9	73,150 13 1	—	8,234 10 4
1888 - -	65,018 14 8	58,993 0 5	6,025 14 3	—
1889 - -	63,722 0 6	57,710 2 3	6,011 18 3	—
1890 - -	66,817 5 1	60,826 6 6	5,990 18 7	—
1891 - -	71,249 18 11	67,819 17 7	3,430 1 4	—

The following statement shows the heads under which the revenue accrues and also the amount collected under each head during the years 1890 and 1891, together with the increase or decrease of the revenue of the year 1891 as compared with that of the previous year.

Comparative Yearly Statement of the Revenue.

Tax or Duty.	Amount Collected in the Year 1891.	Amount Collected in the Year 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
I.—CUSTOMS.				
Import Dues, viz.:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beer - - - -	937 9 10	710 2 9	227 7 1	—
Drapery - - - -	5,866 1 1	4,734 16 0	1,131 5 1	—
Hardware - - -	1,274 15 8	1,687 1 3	—	412 5 7
Oils - - - -	3,869 11 10	3,318 14 5	550 17 5	—
Rice - - - -	2,486 13 11	2,129 17 7	356 16 4	—
Soap - - - -	1,228 8 11	968 13 2	259 15 9	—
Spirits - - - -	4,399 18 0	4,656 6 3	—	256 8 3
Tobacco - - - -	1,478 13 4	1,862 1 4	—	383 8 0
Timber - - - -	1,799 9 9	702 13 1	1,096 16 8	—
Other kinds - - -	7,924 16 2	5,388 8 6	2,536 7 8	—
Export Dues, viz.:				
Sandalwood - - -	0 16 3	—	0 16 3	—
Silver Coin - - -	2 5 0	—	2 5 0	—
Total Customs - -	31,268 19 9	26,158 14 4	6,162 7 3	1,052 1 10

Tax or Duty.	Amount Collected in the Year 1891.	Amount Collected in the Year 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
II.—PORT, WHARFAGE, AND LIGHTHOUSE DUES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Shipping Fees	45 19 6	49 6 6	—	3 7 0
Wharfage	2,720 1 6	2,545 2 9	174 18 9	—
Light Dues	653 2 9	549 0 11	104 1 10	—
Total Port, &c. Dues	3,419 3 9	3,143 10 2	279 0 7	3 7 0
III.—LICENSES, EXCISE AND INTERNAL REVENUE NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED.				
1. Licenses, viz.:—				
Arms	165 15 0	157 0 0	8 15 0	—
Banks	97 10 0	90 0 0	7 10 0	—
Coasting	736 12 0	719 6 0	17 6 0	—
Insurance	125 0 0	120 0 0	5 0 0	—
Liquor	580 0 0	444 0 0	136 0 0	—
Professional	139 15 0	158 15 0	—	19 0 0
Trading	1,639 10 0	1,449 10 0	190 0 0	—
Other Licenses	320 17 0	450 5 0	—	129 8 0
Total Licenses	3,804 19 0	3,588 16 0	364 11 0	148 8 0
2. Fines	1,032 19 7	1,159 14 7	—	126 15 0
3. Water Rate, Municipal	537 14 6	604 13 10	—	66 19 4
4. Stamp Duty	1,278 9 3	1,657 8 8	—	378 19 5
5. Native Taxes	20,914 11 7	20,770 16 3	143 15 4	—
6. Sale of Seizures	6 17 1	0 3 0	6 14 1	—
Total Licenses, Excise, &c.	27,575 11 0	27,781 12 4	515 0 5	721 1 9
IV.—FEES OF COURT OR OFFICE, PAYMENTS FOR SPECIFIC SERVICES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN AID.				
1. Rent of Bond, Kerosene and Powder Warehouses	212 7 9	283 16 4	—	71 8 7
2. Water to Shipping	286 1 0	265 5 0	20 16 0	—
3. Court Fees	316 10 4	340 8 9	—	23 18 5
4. Fees on Crown Grants and Surveys	107 9 6	177 16 11	—	70 7 5
5. Registration Fees	344 14 0	338 10 6	6 3 6	—
6. Native Technical School	198 12 5	10 0 0	188 12 5	—
7. Polynesian Labour Depot	616 0 6	488 16 11	127 3 7	—
8. Repayment of former Advances	39 15 0	99 6 8	—	59 11 8
9. Freights	30 14 0	69 8 0	—	38 14 0

Tax or Duty.	Amount Collected in the Year 1891.	Amount Collected in the Year 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
10. Hospitals - - -	1,244 7 3	1,028 6 7	216 0 8	—
11. Lunatic Asylum - -	77 11 3	33 1 9	44 9 6	—
12. Cemetery Fees - -	66 18 9	79 17 3	—	12 18 6
13. Printing, and Sale of Gazettes - - -	249 6 10	220 18 11	28 7 11	—
14. Work of Prisoners - -	445 6 4	536 9 8	—	91 3 4
15. Officers' Overtime and other Fees - - - - -	528 0 7	—	528 0 7	—
16. Poundage and Overtime, Intestate Estates - -	267 12 9	588 14 7	—	321 1 10
17. Permits to Recruit Native Labourers - - -	12 0 0	127 0 0	—	115 0 0
18. Sea-going, Sailing, and Competency Certificates -	242 6 0	277 11 0	—	35 5 0
19. Patent Fees - - -	10 10 0	16 16 0	—	6 6 0
20. Marriage and Divorce Fees -	91 11 6	87 0 1	4 11 5	—
21. Pilotage - - -	878 7 2	747 0 10	131 6 4	—
22. Poundage on "Provincial Department Deposit Account" - - -	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—
Total Fees of Court, &c. -	6,466 2 11	6,016 5 9	1,295 11 11	845 14 9
V.—POST OFFICE.				
1. Ocean Postage - -	94 7 11	362 11 0	—	268 3 1
2. Postage Stamps - -	1,434 0 5	1,391 2 4	42 18 1	—
3. Postage—Unpaid Letters -	39 5 5	44 6 5	—	5 1 0
4. Private Boxes and Bags -	97 0 0	91 13 4	5 6 8	—
Total Post Office - -	1,664 13 9	1,889 13 1	48 4 9	273 4 1
VI.—RENT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.				
1. Annual Premium on Government House Furniture - - -	12 5 0	12 17 0	—	0 12 0
2. Rent of Lands leased to Indian Immigrants and others - - -	282 19 6	216 8 9	66 10 9	—
Total rent of Government property - - -	295 4 6	229 5 9	66 10 9	0 12 0
VII.—INTEREST.				
Interest on overdue Immigration Accounts - -	22 7 5	—	22 7 5	—

Tax or Duty.	Amount Collected in the Year 1891.	Amount Collected in the Year 1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Sale of Old Stores, &c.	12 4 5	848 8 1	—	836 3 8
2. Sundries	485 11 5	749 15 7	—	264 4 2
Total Miscellaneous	497 15 10	1,598 3 8	—	1,100 7 10
IX.—LAND SALES	40 0 0	—	40 0 0	—
Grand Total	71,249 18 11	66,817 5 1	8,429 3 1	3,996 9 3

The revenue is higher than that of any year since 1885, when the period of commercial depression that has affected tropical agriculture, particularly in the item of sugar, first began to be felt in Fiji.

The total revenue (71,249*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*) exceeded that of the year 1890 by 4,432*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

This excess is due almost exclusively to an increase in the revenue derived from customs duties, which amounted in the aggregate to 31,268*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* There has been no alteration in the customs tariff, but the volume of imports has risen by 22 per cent.

There has been an increase on the receipts from all the principal items of import duties with the exception of hardware, spirits, and tobacco, which each show a slight falling off.

The net increase under the head of customs dues is 5,110*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* The total revenue from customs dues is equal to 13·22 per cent. on the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duties are leviable).

The following statement shows in a comparative form the expenditure of the Colony during the years 1890 and 1891:—

Comparative Yearly Statement of the Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Charges on Account of Public Debt	8,247 15 0	8,241 0 0	6 15 0	—
Pensions	455 16 8	272 14 8	183 2 0	—
The Governor and Legislature	2,322 17 1	2,272 13 8	50 3 5	—
Colonial Secretary	1,109 8 6	1,045 7 4	64 1 2	—
Printing Department	1,295 3 5	1,247 14 10	47 8 7	—
Audit Department	566 11 0	600 6 10	—	33 15 10
Postal Department	941 17 7	1,633 14 2	—	691 16 7
Provincial Department	4,795 14 1	5,219 16 6	—	424 2 5

Head of Expenditure.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Treasury	3,778 16 6	4,113 4 9	—	334 8 3
Customs	2,428 3 2	2,166 11 7	261 11 7	—
Port and Marine	1,176 13 3	1,319 15 4	—	143 2 1
Immigration Department	6,367 14 11	6,992 0 4	—	624 5 5
Judicial and Legal Departments	7,800 1 5	8,257 12 6	—	457 11 1
Police	1,994 15 8	1,376 11 0	618 4 8	—
Armed Native Constabulary	1,187 8 5	1,113 3 9	74 4 8	—
Prisons	2,515 14 6	2,543 12 6	—	27 18 0
Medical	2,790 11 7	2,792 0 5	—	1 8 10
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum	1,281 17 11	1,341 18 9	—	60 0 10
Education	1,003 17 4	982 17 7	20 19 9	—
Transport	1,150 13 2	1,072 10 11	78 2 3	—
Miscellaneous	8,803 17 1	2,377 11 10	6,426 5 3	—
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,420 10 1	1,059 6 2	361 3 11	—
Public Works Recurrent	3,774 0 10	2,635 8 3	1,138 12 7	—
	67,209 19 2	60,677 13 8	9,330 14 10	2,798 9 4
Public Works Extraordinary	609 18 5	148 12 10	461 5 7	—
Total Expenditure	67,819 17 7	60,826 6 6	9,792 0 5	2,798 9 4

The total expenditure in the first instance exceeded that of the previous year by only 46*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, but after adding the extraordinary expenditure before mentioned of 6,846*l.* 13*s.* 0*d.* the increase over the expenditure of the previous year amounted to 6,993*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure on personal emoluments and other charges respectively has during the past two years been as follows:—

——	Year 1890.	Year 1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Personal Emoluments	30,733 1 11	31,902 7 7
Other charges	30,093 4 7	35,917 10 0
Total	60,826 6 6	67,819 17 7

II.—Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st December 1891 were as follows:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31*st of December* 1891.

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891	25,216	3	1			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - -	487	12	7			
Cash in hand on 31st December 1891 - -	101	0	9			
				25,804	16	5
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891	8,220	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta, Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - -	1,158	14	6			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - -	1,164	19	0			
				10,543	13	6
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891	1,200	0	0			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - - - -	99	4	4			
				1,299	4	4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN PASSAGES FUND.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891	25,889	17	3			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - -	18	7	3			
				25,908	4	6
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891	9,222	1	6			
Moneys received in January 1892, but accounted for in December 1891 - - - -	1,368	8	5			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - - - -	1,788	0	4			
				12,378	10	3
DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.						
Fixed Deposits at Interest on 31st December 1891 - - - - - - -	165	8	0			
Union Bank Credit Balance on 31st December 1891 - - - - - - -	87	7	2			
				252	15	2
Revenue paid into Public Account after 31st December 1891, but which forms part of the Revenue of the Colony for 1891				5,815	10	11
Immigration Department.—Amount due to the Department, 31st December 1891 - - - -				5,430	3	10
Advance Account.—Advances made and recoverable - -				225	19	10
Deposit Account.—Amounts recoverable - -				9	17	0
Crown Agents' Credit Balance, 30th November, 1891 - -				260	19	8
Advance from Public Account against Suva Works Advance (*Ordinance No. XX of* 1882 *and No. XVIII of* 1888) -				11,437	17	3
Public Account.— Credit Balance, Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1891 - - - - - -				2,780	1	7
				102,147	14	3
Excess of Liabilities - - - - - -				8,174	10	1
£				110,322	4	4

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Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Public Trust Account.						
Wages and Return-passage money of Polynesian Immigrants	-	-	-	25,804	16	5
Indian Immigrants' Introduction Fund.						
Amount standing to credit of above Account	10,525	19	6			
Cheques outstanding on the 31st December 1891	17	14	0			
				10,543	13	6
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account.						
Amount standing to credit of above Account	-	-	-	1,299	4	4
Indian Immigrants' Return-passages Fund.						
Amount standing to credit of above Account	-	-	-	25,908	4	6
Provincial Department Deposit Account.						
Amount standing to credit of above Account	11,892	16	8			
Cheques outstanding on 31st December 1891	485	13	7			
				12,378	10	3
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account.						
Amount standing to credit of above Account	248	8	8			
Cheques outstanding on 31st December 1891	4	6	6			
				252	15	2
Advance Account.—Amount to be refunded	-	-	-	2	4	0
Deposit Account.—Amounts payable	-	-	-	2,095	1	1
Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of Native Lands on which interest at 5 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the Native Owners	-	-	-	2,734	13	4
Special Advance from Indian Immigrants' Return-passages Fund in 1887	-	-	-	4,339	10	0
Amount chargeable to the General Expenditure of the Colony under Suva Works (*Ordinance No. XX of* 1882 *and Ordinance No. XVIII of* 1888)	-	-	-	11,437	17	3
Public Account.—Cheques outstanding on 31st December 1891				13,525	14	6
			£	110,322	4	4

The excess of liabilities (exclusive of public debt) over assets has been reduced to 8,174*l* 10*s*. 0*d*.

III.—Public Debt.

The public debt has been reduced by the statutory liquidation during the year. At 31st December 1891 it amounted to 246,689*l*. 14*s*. 6*d*.

This is equal to the revenue of about three and a half years.

The following statement gives details of the amounts borrowed and of the manner in which they were expended :—

Public Debt.

Debts.	To whom due.	Rate of Interest.	When incurred and for what Cause.	Provision for Payment of Interest or Sinking Fund, and Enactments by which it is made.	Amount of Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
£ s. d. 104,025 7 11	Imperial Government.	Without interest.	Imperial Grant in aid of local revenue during the two years succeeding Annexation. There were defrayed therefrom the expenses incident to the Cession of the Colony, the establishment of British Government therein; and the returning to their homes in the New Hebrides and Solomon Groups of the immigrant labourers introduced before Annexation.	To be repaid when the circumstances of the Colony will permit.	£ s. d. 104,025 7 11	£ s. d. Nil.	—
11,364 6 7	Do.	Do.	Imperial Grant in payment of compensation to German subjects in respect of certain of their claims to land in Fiji disallowed by the Lands Commission, *plus* expenses connected with the Mixed Commission appointed to inquire into the disallowance of these claims.	Do.	11,364 6 7	Nil.	—
131,300 0 0	Debentures -	4½ per cent. -	Under Ordinance XIII. of 1880. For general purposes and to pay debts incurred by late Government. Expended as follows:— £ s. d. 1. Payment of liabilities of the late so-called Government of the Fiji Islands - - - 100,000 0 0 2. Suva Works - - - 19,966 15 7 3. Lighthouses - - - 93 14 7 4. Coolie Immigration - - 13,753 13 2 5. Levuka Pier - - - 1,289 2 10 6. Expenses of the Commission appointed by the Imperial Government to inquire into claims to land - - - - 10,000 0 0 7. Balance transferred to Public Account (to assist in meeting further expenditure on lighthouses) - - - - 4,896 13 10 £150,000 0 0	Half-yearly appropriation out of the General Revenue and Assets of the Colony of a sum equal to one half-year's interest on the whole of the debentures previously issued, including any that may have been redeemed; and a similar half-yearly appropriation by way of a sinking fund of ten shillings per cent. on the total nominal amount of all debentures issued on or before the first day of each half-year including any which may have been redeemed. The amount is drawn by the Crown Agents. Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880 provides for these payments.	150,000 0 0	18,700 0 0	—

IV.—MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER LOCAL BODIES.

These consist, as heretofore, of the town board and the school board of Suva, and of the town board and the school board of Levuka.

The gross revenue and expenditure of these boards during the year 1891 has been as follows:—

——	Revenue derived from Taxation.	Total Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Suva Town Board - -	1,226 9 4	1,417 14 4	1,412 17 3
Levuka Town Board - -	584 14 4	937 4 10	1,170 18 6
Total, Municipal Boards -	1,811 3 8	2,354 19 2	2,583 17 9
Suva School Board - -	270 18 2	507 4 10	494 8 6
Levuka School Board - -	275 0 0	477 5 3	479 14 10
Total, Educational Boards -	545 18 2	984 10 1	974 2 6
Total -	2,357 1 10	3,339 9 3	3,558 0 3

The town boards are elected by ballot by the ratepayers and hold office for three years. One half of the members of each school board is similarly elected, and the other half is appointed by the Governor for a period of three years.

Education within the districts of the school boards is free and compulsory as regards children between the ages of five and 14 years. Government educational grants amounted in the year 1891 to 384*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works undertaken during the year and the cost thereof have been as follows:—

Description of work, and where situated.	Whether constructing or under repair.	If finished, actual amount of Expenditure in Pounds Sterling. £	s.	d.
Roads, bridges, and culverts:—				
Cakobau and Suva Point Roads.	Constructing and repairing - -	179	16	2
Roads, Colo - - -	Do. -	100	2	11
		279	19	1
Wharfs:—				
Suva - - - -	Repairs - - -	1,035	6	3
Levuka - - -	Do. - - -	19	19	9
		1,055	6	0
Repairs and additions to Government buildings throughout the Colony, viz:—				
Government House - -	Do. - - -	215	15	7
Government offices - -	Do. - - -	368	4	7
Police station - - -	Do. - - -	155	11	0
Magistrates' quarters - -	Do. - - -	134	3	4
Bond, Suva and Levuka, and Post Office - - -	Do. - - -	73	14	3
Medical Officers' quarters -	Do. - - -	176	8	2
Court-house and Government House, Levuka - -	Do. - -	60	0	0
Gaols - - - -	Do. - - -	150	14	2
Hospital, Suva - -	Do. - - -	324	10	5
Lunatic Asylum - -	Do. - - -	44	9	11
Armed Native Constabulary -	Do. - - -	40	0	6
Furniture and incidentals -	Do. - - -	96	1	6
Lighthouses and signal station -	Do. - - -	170	15	11
Quarantine station, Makuluva Island - - - -	Constructing - -	259	15	0
		2,270	4	4
Water supply, Suva - -	Repairs and extension -	95	12	3
Botanic station - - -	- - - - -	116	3	4
		3,817	5	0

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VI.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the Ordinances that have been passed by the Legislative Council during the year:—

Ordinances.

1891. 31st March -	No. I.—To authorise the expenditure of Three thousand eight hundred and sixty-six pounds six shillings and nine pence for the service of the year ending the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety in excess of the amount already sanctioned by Ordinance.
Do. -	No. II.—To amend and consolidate the Law relating to Indian Immigration.
20th July -	No. III.—To codify the Law relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes.
4th December -	No. IV.—For the better Regulation of Contracts and Dealings with Natives of the Colony and for other purposes.
Do.	No. V.—To prohibit the Erection and Repair of Buildings of Inflammable Material within Towns.
Do.	No. VI.—To amend "The Arms Ordinance 1883."
Do.	No. VII.—For the Establishment and Regulation of Native Markets.
8th December -	No. VIII.—To amend the Law with respect to the Falsification of Accounts.
Do.	No. IX.—To amend Ordinance No. XXXV. of 1876, intituled "An Ordinance for the better Regulation of Native Affairs."
16th December	No. X.—To provide for the Establishment of a Government Savings Bank.
Do.	No. XI.—For the Prevention of Contagious Diseases in Stock.
Do.	No. XII.—To declare the Supreme Court to be a Colonial Court of Admiralty, and to provide for the exercise by such Court of Admiralty Civil Jurisdiction.
Do.	No. XIII.—To amend "The Criminal Procedure Ordinance 1875."
19th December	No. XIV.—To declare the Law relating to the Property of Married Women.
Do.	No. XV.—To provide for the Medical Care of Immigrants and Native Labourers.
14th December	No. XVI.—To appropriate a sum not exceeding Sixty-seven thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight pounds nineteen shillings and four pence for the service of the year ending the thirty-first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

1891. 19th December	No. XVII.—To amend "The Public Education Ordinance 1890."
Do.	No. XVIII.—To prevent the Introduction into the Colony of Parasitic Disease of Trees and Plants.
Do.	No. XIX.—To amend "The Foreign Animals Importation Ordinance 1886."

Ordinance No. II. collects into one enactment of 220 sections the numerous laws previously in force in the Colony on the subject of Indian Immigration.

Ordinance No. III. assimilates the law of the Colony to that of England and of the majority of the Colonies on the subject of bills of exchange, cheques, and promissory notes.

Ordinance No. XIV. enacts what is practically the law of England on the subject of the property of married women.

VII.—Civil Establishments.

The following are the principal alterations that took place during the year:—

Mr. Joseph Ogilvie Forth was appointed to be Colonial Auditor, vice Mr. D. J. Chisholm, who vacated office.

Mr. Edgar Charles Turner was appointed to be Postmaster, Levuka, vice Mr. J. W. Groom, who resigned on account of ill-health.

Mr. Walter Sinclair Carew, Resident Commissioner of Colo East and Stipendiary Magistrate of Rewa, was appointed to be also Roko Commissioner of Naitasiri (vice Ratu Peni Panoa, suspended).

Mr. H. E. Leefe was appointed to act as Resident Commissioner of Rotumah, vice Mr. Francis Fuller, absent on leave.

Four European officers resigned, and one vacated his office during the year.

Four native officers resigned, four died, eight were dismissed, and two suspended.

Leave of absence was granted to three officers during the year.

Thirty-four officers gave security in the aggregate sum of 6,900*l.* for the due discharge of their duties.

The name of Alexander R. Mackay, late Resident Commissioner of Rotumah, was, on account of ill-health, added to the pension list with an allowance of 101*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

VIII.—POPULATION.

The estimated population at 31st December 1891 is shown in the following statement:—

—	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Europeans -	1,327	764	—	—	1,327	764
Half-castes -	—	—	542	550	542	550
Indians - -	—	—	5,415	2,674	5,415	2,674
Chinese -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polynesians -	—	—	2,079	382	2,079	382
Rotumans -	—	—	1,056	1,163	1,056	1,163
Fijians - -	—	—	57,353	51,618	57,353	51,618
Others -	—	—	209	270	209	270
Total -	1,327	764	66,654	56,657	67,981	57,421
					125,402	

IX.—IMMIGRATION.

The introduction and return of Indian and Polynesian Immigrant labourers have been as follows during the year:—

—	Indians.	Polynesians.
Arrived - - -	1,040	369
Returned home - -	427	146

X.—ECCLESIASTICAL RETURNS.

The following statistics are furnished by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions concerning their work in the Colony:—

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches - - - -	914
Other preaching places - - -	354
European missionaries - - -	11
Native ministers - - - -	71
Catechists - - - -	51
Teachers - - - -	1,130
Local preachers - - - -	2,458
Class leaders - - - -	3,423
Church members (English and Native) -	30,256
On trial for membership -	5,351
Communicants - - - -	28
Catechumens - - - -	6,046
Day schools - - - -	1,976
Day school scholars - - -	37,175
Day school teachers - - -	2,532
Sabbath schools - - - -	1,833
Sabbath schools, scholars - -	39,167
Sabbath schools, teachers - -	2,692
Adherents - - - -	101,355

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries - - -	19
Churches and chapels - - -	84
Training institutions (European) - -	3
" " (Native) - -	1
Native teachers - - - -	178
European sisters - - -	20
Adherents - - -	about 10,500
Schools for natives - - -	143

XI.—EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

The average rate of exchange with London during the past year has been :—

At 60 days' sight, 1½ per cent. premium.
At 30 days' sight, 2 per cent. premium.
On demand, 2½ per cent. premium.

The coin in circulation in the Colony is estimated at about 85,000*l.* (eighty-five thousand pounds).

The value of paper money in circulation is estimated at 4,000*l.* Paper money is not favoured by the natives, and it is to be regretted that they do not use the smaller denomination of coins, the principal coin in circulation being the shilling.

The local banks will furnish no return on the subject, but it is estimated that the amount on deposit in the banks in the Colony is about 180,000*l.*

The rate of interest given by the banks, which for years stood at 5 per cent. on deposit placed for 12 months, was during the year reduced to 4½ per cent. per annum. The rates charged by the banks for money lent averaged probably from 8 to 9 per cent.

There are two banks doing business in the Colony, The Bank of New Zealand (two branches), and The Union Bank of Australia (Limited).

XII.—Trade and Commerce.

The Export and Import Trade of the Colony for each of the past four years is shown in the following Statement.

Total Value of the Import and Export Trade of the Colony.

1.—*Value of the total Imports and Exports of the Colony, distinguishing between Produce raised in the Colony and Produce Imported for Exportation.*

—	1888.			1889.			1890.			1891.		
Imports:—	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
For use in the Colony	175,155	19	5	188,339	7	1	195,981	6	1	236,529	1	6
*Produce imported for exportation	8,065	16	9	1,053	14	0	10,776	3	4	16,519	13	5
Total	183,221	16	2	189,393	1	1	206,757	9	5	253,048	14	11
Exports:—												
Produce raised in the Colony	368,912	7	5	363,227	18	6	353,756	9	6	457,814	10	1
Imported produce exported	8,065	16	9	1,053	14	0	10,776	3	4	16,519	13	5
Total	376,978	4	2	364,281	12	6	364,532	12	10	474,334	3	6
Total of Imports and Exports	560,200	0	4	553,674	13	7	571,290	2	3	727,382	18	5

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* This is South Sea Island produce.

2.—*Total Value of Imports from British Possessions, Polynesian Islands, and other Countries.*

—	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From British Possessions -	174,244 8 0	186,418 18 5	194,172 14 6	232,757 18 8
From Polynesian Islands -	8,781 16 2	1,179 6 4	8,300 8 8	12,090 17 9
From other Countries -	195 12 0	1,794 16 4	4,284 6 3	8,199 18 6
Total - - -	183,221 16 2	189,393 1 1	206,757 9 5	253,048 14 11

3.—*Value of total Exports to British Possessions and to other Countries respectively.*

—	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Exported to British Possessions - - -	341,446 10 10	335,857 15 6	332,322 8 11	420,783 7 10
Exported to other Countries	35,531 13 4	28,423 17 0	32,210 3 11	53,550 15 8
Total - - -	376,978 4 2	364,281 12 6	364,532 12 10	474,334 3 6

The accounts of imports and exports are exclusive of specie and bullion.

The aggregate value of imports for the 17 years since the foundation of the Colony has been 4,133,934*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

The aggregate value of exports for the same period has been 4,463,511*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

The value of exports for that period has thus exceeded the value of imports by 329,577*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

	£	s.	d.
The value of imports for the past four years amounts to - - - - - -	832,421	1	7
And the exports to - - -	1,580,126	13	0
Balance of exports over imports - -	£747,705	11	5

Imports and exports form, during the four years in question, the respective proportion of the total trade shown hereunder, viz. :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1888 - - - - -	32·70	67·30
1889 - - - - -	34·20	65·80
1890 - - - - -	36·19	63·81
1891 - - - - -	34·79	65·21

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The principal imports and the value of each introduced into the Colony during the past four years will be found in the following Table.

Nature of Import.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,160	1,414	1,317	1,177
2. Bags and sugar mats	4,961	4,785	5,879	6,180
3. Beer	2,948	2,987	2,298	3,264
4. Boots and shoes	2,980	2,897	3,171	3,387
5. Breadstuffs and biscuits	10,144	16,114	14,086	16,111
6. Butter	1,453	1,271	1,712	1,752
7. Cordage	1,532	1,705	1,509	1,567
8. Cigars	664	727	830	722
9. Coals	5,611	6,550	9,736	10,405
10. Doors and sashes	123	290	179	633
11. Drapery	48,075	42,899	37,940	49,902
12. Drugs	1,863	1,978	2,294	2,294
13. Fish	1,613	1,999	1,755	1,969
14. Fruits, bottled and dried	522	564	517	684
15. Galvanised iron and goods	1,854	2,829	2,916	6,385
16. Glassware and crockery	1,631	2,334	2,505	3,256
17. Hardware	12,957	14,560	15,293	23,025
18. Iron, bar, rod	404	357	679	920
19. Iron rails and pipes	755	554	234	1,452
20. Jam and jellies	473	540	450	566
21. Jewellery	883	1,186	1,326	1,046
22. Live stock	4,000	4,001	4,109	6,865
23. Machinery	8,112	4,048	7,121	7,285
24. Manure	2,659	8,132	10,983	7,651
25. Meats	8,282	7,948	9,169	10,793
26. Musical instruments	547	335	525	964
27. Oils	5,280	4,889	6,031	5,667
28. Pickles and oilstores	1,734	1,756	1,711	2,367
29. Paints	1,062	1,911	1,012	2,336
30. Produce	5,868	2,903	4,333	4,205
31. Rice	8,298	11,451	10,193	11,237
32. Ship chandlery	2,039	2,931	2,526	2,716
33. Soap	1,767	1,585	1,557	2,037
34. Spirits	2,854	2,817	2,758	2,780
35. Stationery	2,148	2,490	2,338	2,669
36. Sugar	27	718	1,292	824
37. Tea	441	238	123	152
38. Timber	2,839	5,426	4,094	9,362
39. Tobacco	981	1,163	1,240	949
40. Vegetables and green fruits	2,000	2,866	2,298	1,969
41. Wines	716	1,166	896	1,190
42. Woodenware and furniture	2,964	2,746	4,792	4,850
43. Other imports	15,998	9,332	8,802	10,964

The principal increases are in the items of breadstuff, drapery, hardware (excluding items otherwise enumerated), live stock, galvanized iron and goods, and timber.

The principal items of export have been, as heretofore, sugar, copra, and green fruit.

The export of these items during the years 1890 and 1891 has been as follows :—

	1890.	1891.
Sugar	15,291 tons	20,470 tons.
Value,	244,655*l.*	327,525*l.*
Copra	4,500 tons	6,445 tons.
Value,	40,499*l.*	59,618*l.*
Fruit	720,788 bunches	784,765 bunches.
	5,777 packages	4,418 packages
Value,	57,525*l.*	61,501*l.*

The other exports consist of :—

		£
Beche de Mer, 35½ tons	valued at	1,777
Cocoanuts, 13,685 sacks	„	3,421
Desiccated cocoanuts, 42 tons	„	2,360
Cotton, kidney, 98½ tons	„	4,858
Molasses, 167,508 gallons	„	1,047
Peanuts, 300½ tons	„	5,611
Turtle shell, 17 cwt.	„	1,025
Tobacco, 11½ tons	„	1,082
Wool, 9 tons 3 cwt.	„	865

There have also been small exports of arrowroot, bark, coffee, curiosities, dried fruit, gum, ginger, hair (angora), hides, maize, mats, pearl shell, plants and seeds, sandalwood, tallow, timber, tea, colonial distilled spirits, turtles, and yams.

The principal increases among the minor items of exports occur under the heads of cocoanuts (increase of 1,019*l.*), desiccated cocoanut (increase of 933*l.*), cotton kidney (increase of 2,414*l.*), peanuts (increase of 1,078*l.*), tobacco, and wool.

The countries to which exports were sent from Fiji during the past four years, together with the value of exports to each country are set forth hereunder, viz :—

Value of Exports from Fiji to :—

—	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£	£	£	
New South Wales	54,173	77,887	67,388	64,772
Victoria	109,114	91,549	54,406	66,019
New Zealand	178,150	166,422	210,528	289,992
Total Australian Colonies	341,437	335,858	332,322	420,783
Samoa	105	178	135	97
Tonga	627	251	129	604
Portugal	22,311	4,550	4,685	—
Spain	12,383	18,460	114	—
France	—	4,912	27,088	52,576
Other Countries	115	73	60	274

Sugar is the principal export to New Zealand, but the export of fruit to that Colony is also increasing.

The import trade of the Colony increased by 22 per cent. from the year 1890, the export trade by 30 per cent., and the total trade by 27 per cent., or a total of 156,092*l.*

The total trade of the year 1891 is greater than that of any year since the foundation of the Colony. The import trade is not so great as it was six years ago, but previous to that time large quantities of machinery and building material were being imported and the export trade was then considerably smaller.

XIII.—NAVIGATION.

The number and tonnage of vessels entering from abroad at the two ports of entry in the Colony during the past four years, have been as shown below :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
1888	71	39,750	35	9,829	106	49,579
1889	62	40,892	27	10,328	89	51,220
1890	60	49,306	19	7,405	79	56,711
1891	68	57,859	33	11,417	101	69,276

The nationality of the vessels in question was as follows:—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Norwegian.		Tongan.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1888 - -	99	46,401	—	—	3	1,077	4	2,101	—	—
1889 - -	79	46,005	1	224	1	517	7	4,452	1	22
1890 - -	75	53,337	1	279	1	1,703	2	1,392	—	—
1891 - -	88	62,873	5	1,039	2	1,546	6	3,818	—	—

The total tonnage recorded as having "entered in" during 1891 exceeds that of any other year by 12,565 tons.

Ninety-seven vessels cleared outwards, and their total tonnage amounted to 68,865 tons.

There are two ports of registry in the Colony, Suva and Levuka.

The shipping on local registers at 31st December 1891 consisted of only seven vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 332.

Most of the locally-owned vessels are of small tonnage and unregistered.

The number and tonnage of such vessels holding, at the end of 1891, sea-going certificates issued by the Fiji Marine Board were:—

—	No.	Tonnage.
European owned vessels - - - -	113	1,739
Native owned vessels - - - -	230	1,609
Total - -	343	3,348

The foregoing statement does not of course include open boats, native canoes, and craft of that description.

XIV.—AGRICULTURE.

It is computed that the acreage of land under cultivation by Europeans during the year was 37,809 acres, under crop as follows:—

	Acres.
Peanuts - - - -	214
Bananas - - - -	2,708
Cotton - - - -	71½
Tobacco - - - -	14

	Acres.
Cocoanuts	20,666
Tea	250
Maize	299½
Sugar cane	12,829
Yams	111
Other produce	646
Total	37,809

The total acreage of land in the Colony is 4,953,920. The area under cultivation by natives is not known, as it varies greatly from time to time.

The number of live stock in the Colony at the end of 1891 is returned as follows:—

Horses	959
Horned cattle	9,861
Sheep	6,072
Goats	3,225

XV.—Manufactures.

The sugar mills and other factories at work in the Colony are returned as stated below:—

Manufactures.

Mills, Works, &c.	Nominal Daily Output.
Sugar Mills.	
1 at Varia, Rewa	10 tons of dried sugar.
1 at Koronivia, Rewa	10 do. do.
1 at Nausori, Rewa	40 do. do.
1 at Tamanua, Navua	20 do. do.
1 at Rarawai, Ba	20 do. do.
1 at Deuba, Serua	10 do. do.
1 at Holmhurst, Taviuni	10 do. do.
1 at Mango	7 do. do.
1 at Penang, Rakiraki, Ra	5 do. do.
1 at Ellington, do. do.	3 do. do.
1 at Dreketi, Macuata	1 ton do.
11	136
Tea Factories.	
1 at Davuta, Wainunu	200 lbs. of dried tea.
1 at Alpha, Taviuni	(No return.)
2	
Desiccated Cocoanut Factories.	
1 at Levuka	(No Return.)
1 at Suva	(No Return.)
2	
Boat-building Yards.	
4 in Suva.	—
2 in Levuka.	—
6	

XVI.—PRISONS.

The following statistics of the Central Prisons are given in respect of the year 1891.

The total of the corresponding figures for the year 1890 are added by way of comparison.

Class.	Committed to Prison during 1890.				Total for 1890.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles	Total.	
Number of persons committed in 1891 for debt	—	—	—	—	1
For safe custody till trial, or for want of security	61	3	—	64	86
For purposes of penal imprisonment	662	26	—	688	618
Total	723	29	—	752	705

The daily average in prison during the past four years has been:—

——	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Men	191	171	191	201
Women	9	6	5	3
Juveniles	—	—	—	—
Total	200	177	196	204

XVII.—CRIME.

The following criminal statistics show that crime remains about stationary in extent. The figures given for the year 1891 include those relating to Provincial Courts held under the native regulations, which have not been included in the criminal returns of previous years.

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions, and Acquittals for the last four years.

——	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
The number of persons apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates	6,443	4,377	3,612	5,799[1]
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	266	242	253	394[2]
2. For larceny - - - -	172	185	156	254[3]
3. For offences against property - -	115	233	155	247[4]
4. For other offences - - -	4,316	2,405	2,400	3,779[5]
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against the person -	30	16	19	15
2. For larceny - - - -	9	1	2	4
3. For offences against property - -	8	5	5	7
4. For other offences - - -	—	2	4	4
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,514	1,233	604	1,086[6]
2. In the superior courts - - -	31	29	9	12

[1] 2,201 cases heard in Provincial Courts under Native Regulations.

[2] 190 Do. Do.

[3] 45 Do. Do.

[4] 110 Do. Do.

[5] 1,241 Do. Do.

[6] 615 Do. Do.

XVIII.—Hospital.

The number of patients in the Public Hospital at the beginning of the year 1891 was	-	66
The number admitted during the year was	-	603
Total number of cases dealt with -	-	669

Of these there were:—

Discharged cured - -	323
„ relieved - -	219
„ not improved - -	27
Died - - - -	49
	618
Remaining in hospital at end of 1891	51
	669

The following table gives particulars of the classes of patients treated:—

Classes treated.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate Per Centum.
Europeans - -	12	—	—
Fijians - -	324	13	4·0
Polynesians - -	86	16	18·6
Indians - -	237	20	8·4
Miscellaneous - -	10	—	—
Total - -	669	49	7·32

XIX.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Seven patients were admitted into the asylum during the year. The number discharged was:—

Cured - - - - -	1
Relieved - - - - -	2
Not improved - - - -	3
Total - -	6

Seven patients remained in the asylum at the end of the year.

XX.—METEOROLOGY.

The following returns are furnished by the Government Meteorological Observer:—

Suva, Fiji.—1891.

Longitude—178° 26′ E. Latitude—18° 8′ S. Height above mean sea level—14 feet.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							Tension of Vapour, 9 a.m.	Relative Humidity, 9 a.m.
		Mean.	Means of		Absolute Minimum and Maximum.					
			Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Date.	Maximum.	Date.	Mean.	Mean.
January -	29·926	80	73	84	70	9th	87	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 18th	0·775	75
February -	29·795	84	77	88	73	1st, 23rd	91	9th	0·794	68
March -	29·907	81	75	85	71	16th	90	1st, 2nd	0·802	76
April -	30·012	81	73	86	70	8th, 27th	92	29th	0·802	76
May -	30·096	78	72	82	64	29th	87	3rd	0·681	71
June -	30·080	77	69	82	63	18th	88	28th	0·620	67
July -	30·071	73	67	82	62	27th	89	20th, 30th, 31st	0·641	79
August -	30·109	77	68	80	2	22nd	90	28th	0·633	67
September -	30·106	79	69	83	61	16th	89	23rd, 24th	0·605	59
October -	30·046	80	74	83	69	1st, 31st	88	24th, 26th	0·690	67
November -	30·009	80	73	83	68	25th	91	16th	0·690	67
December -	29·901	85	74	89	72	8th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 26th.	92	21st, 22nd, 24th	0·826	68
Year -	30·050	79·6	72	84	61	16th September	92	29th April, and 21st, 22nd, and 24th December.	—	—

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SUVA, FIJI.—1891.

Height of the Thermometers above the ground = 14 ft. Height of Rain Gauge above the ground = 24 ft.

Months.	Amount of Cloud. 9 A.M.	Rainfall.			Weather. Number of Days of					Wind. Number of Observations of								
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January	6	21·02	3·28	20th	29	6	0	5	0	6	8	6	7	1	1	1	1	0
February	4	5·47	3·88	24th	20	1	1	1	0	7	10	3	4	1	1	2	0	0
March	6	18·35	3·75	26th	27	5	1	5	0	6	8	14	2	0	0	0	1	0
April	3	11·86	1·76	22nd	26	7	3	1	0	5	1	7	15	2	0	0	0	0
May	7	1·80	0·34	5th	23	0	0	11	0	1	1	12	15	1	1	0	0	0
June	5	1·61	0·64	11th	12	0	5	6	0	5	2	3	8	5	2	1	4	0
July	5	0·70	0·22	5th	15	0	4	5	0	4	3	6	15	0	1	2	0	0
August	6	4·24	1·50	16th	14	1	0	6	0	4	3	11	9	1	2	1	0	0
September	5	3·94	1·50	12th	17	0	3	6	0	2	3	6	13	3	1	2	0	0
October	6	9·11	2·88	25th	18	5	0	8	0	6	2	6	13	2	0	0	1	0
November	8	4·84	1·32	20th	18	0	0	9	0	2	0	10	16	1	0	0	1	0
December		7·58	2·45	27th	21	9	2	0	0	4	2	4	15	2	0	0	4	0
Year	5·5	90·52	3·88	24/2/91	240	34	19	66	0	52	43	88	132	19	9	9	13	0

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XXI.—ROADS.

The following return is given of the roads in the Colony:—

ROADS.	
DISTRICT OF SUVA (beyond municipal boundaries).	
Cakobau Road (carriage road), formed for about three-quarters of a mile - - - - - - - - -	¾ mile.
Suva Point Road, near Suva (carriage road), formed for about five miles, running round Suva Point and back to town - -	5 miles.
LEVUKA.	
Carriage road outside Municipal Boundary - - - - -	1 mile.
Bridle roads on the Island of Ovalau - - - - -	35 miles.
REWA.	
From Vunidawa to Viria - - - - - - -	13 miles.
From Viria to Waidina - - - - - - -	3 „
TAILEVU.	
From Tova Peak to Nadurulolo - - - - - -	40 miles.
From Namata to Nausori - - - - - - -	5 „
COLO EAST.	
Bridle-track from Nakorovatu to Taulevu - - - - -	3 miles.
Do. from Taulevu to Narokorokoyawa (the central village of Vitilevu) - - - - - - - - -	21 „
Bridle-track from Narokorokoyawa to Nasauvere - - - -	4 „
Do. from Taulevu to Nabila - - - - -	13 „
Do. from Nabila to Waisomo - - - - -	2 „
Do. from Nabila to Nasalia - - - - -	4 „
Do. in Naboubuco - - - - - - -	3 „
Do. from Nakorovatu to Taivou - - - - -	2 „
Do. from Nabukaluka to Veisari, Suva - - - -	10 „
RA AND BA.	
Roads (varying from 12 to 24 feet in width) from Vitilevu Bay to Nadi - - - - - - - - - -	100 miles.
COLO WEST.	
Bridle-paths - - - - - - - - -	150 miles.
NAVUA.	
Road from Naitonitoni to Raiwaqa - - - - - -	4½ miles.
Road from Naitonitoni to Serua and Komave - - -	30 „
Bridle-track from Komave to Sigatoka and on to Nadi - -	60
TAVIUNI.	
Military roads and bridle-tracks - - - - - -	40 miles.
MACUATA.	
Bridle-track, Tabia to Dreketi - - - - - -	30 miles.
Do., Dreketi through Lekutu to Bua - - - -	25 „

MACUATA—*continued.*

Bridle-track, Bua to Naboualu	16 miles.
Do. Solevu to Wainunu	10 „
Do. Naduri to Wailevu (Cakaudrove)	14 „
Do. Naduri to Seaqaqa	20 „

LAU.

On Lakeba, good bridle-road	15 miles.
On Vanuabalavu, good road	6 „
On Do., good bridle-road	9 „
On Cicia, good road	8 „
On Totoya, road for foot passengers	5 „
On Matuka, do. do.	8 „
On Naiau, do. do.	5 „

FOOTPATHS.

Everywhere.

XXII.—POSTAL.

The following return indicates the volume of correspondence passing through the Central Post Offices during the year.

Statement of the Estimated Total number of Letters, etc. dealt with in 1891.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters	182,610	7,400	7,372	36,736	37,678	271,796
Post cards	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newspapers	123,054	25,600	2,329	36,968	9,248	197,194
Book packets, samples, and circulars	12,455	458	574	5,693	1,010	20,190
Parcels	—	240	16	—	—	256
Telegrams	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Colony entered the Universal Postal Union on 1st October 1891.

XXIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The trade of the Colony has advanced rapidly during the year.

The green-fruit trade, however, has not increased to any great extent and the profits made from the production and export of this staple have undoubtedly fallen off. This is owing, locally, to

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the presence of a disease among bananas which prevents their bearing. The Government have for some time been endeavouring to arrange for the temporary services of a pathologist to examine the causes of this disease, and, if possible, to provide a remedy.

The trade has also been affected by the competition of the Colony of Queensland in the markets of New South Wales and Victoria.

The export of green fruit to New Zealand has, however, doubled within the past four years, as has also that to Victoria. There will always be a sale for Fijian green fruit as the quality of the bananas produced in Fiji is admittedly superior to that of those coming from Queensland, which are often sold under the name of Fijian bananas.

A few of the "Gros Michel" bananas suckers have been imported from Trinidad with the view of seeing whether they resist the disease better than the locally grown "China" bananas.

The health of the European Community has been good during the year. The epidemic of influenza did not, so far as is known, cause any deaths among the Europeans. The mortality statistics for the past 10 years are as follows:—

Year.	Death rate per Mille.	Population.	European Deaths.
1878 - - -	21·5	2,000	43
1879 - - -	16·59	2,109	35
1880 - - -	18·24	2,193	40
1881 - - -	16·84	2,671	45
1882 - - -	16·21	2,898	47
1883 - - -	14·80	3,513	52
1884 - - -	16·54	3,567	59
1885 - - -	14·27	3,433	49
1886 - - -	15·12	3,373	51
1887 - - -	14·72	2,105	31
1888 - - -	16·08	2,115	34
1889 - - -	15·13	2,115	32
1890 - - -	16·99	2,059	35
1891 - - -	9·56	2,091	20

The native community, on the other hand, suffered somewhat severely from the epidemic of influenza.

The number of deaths recorded during the year was 5,496, as compared with 3,929 births.

The high mortality among native children, due for the most part to errors of feeding and nursing, and lack of attention, swells the number of native deaths at all times, and particularly when any epidemic is prevalent.

A full inquiry into the best means of preventing this infantile mortality is now in progress and it is hoped that it will be attended with some measure of success.

J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1892.

(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 72.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1894.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
63	St. Helena	1891
64	Sierra Leone	"
65	Jamaica	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago	1891
67	Newfoundland	"
68	British New Guinea	1891–92
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	"
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891
73	British Honduras	"
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	"
76	Bahamas	"
77	Leeward Islands	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago	"
79	Malta	"
80	Gambia	"
81	Straits Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Goast	"
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 97.

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[For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 72.]

Sir J. B. THURSTON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
September 16, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of the Blue Book for 1892, together with a carefully prepared report from the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I regret that, owing to the great pressure of work in the Colonial Secretary's Office, it has not been possible to forward them earlier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1892.

1. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

For the fifth year in succession the revenue of the colony has exceeded the expenditure. The revenue and expenditure of each year since 1887, with the accruing surplus or deficit, are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887 - -	64,916 2 9	73,150 13 1	—	8,234 10 4
1888 - -	65,018 14 8	58,993 0 5	6,025 14 3	—
1889 - -	63,722 0 6	57,710 2 3	6,011 18 3	—
1890 - -	66,817 5 1	60,826 6 6	5,990 18 7	—
1891 - -	71,249 18 11	67,819 17 7	3,430 1 4	—
1892 - -	71,552 15 2	67,651 12 1	3,901 3 1	—

The expenditure was divided between "Personal Emoluments" and "Other Charges," as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments - - -	33,488	12	0
Other charges - - - -	34,163	0	1
Total - - - -	67,651	12	1

2. Assets and Liabilities.

During the period of agricultural depression which occurred for a few years prior to the year 1888, the Colonial Expenditure exceeded the Revenue, with the result that at the beginning of the year 1888 there was in addition to the ordinary Public Debt a floating liability amounting to 35,196*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

By reason, however, of economies effected in administration this floating liability has during the past five years been so reduced that at 31st December 1892, it stood at the sum of 4,083*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

3. Public Debt.

The Public Debt was reduced by the statutory appropriation during the year.

At 31st December 1892 it consisted of the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
(1.) Imperial Grant-in-aid of Local Revenue during the two years succeeding annexation, from which were defrayed the expenses incident to the cession of the Colony, the establishment of Government, and the returning to their homes in the New Hebrides and Solomon groups of the immigrant labourers introduced before the date of the cession (without interest) - -	102,985	2	10
(2.) Imperial Grant in payment of compensation to German subjects in respect of certain of their claims to land in Fiji disallowed by the Lands Commission appointed by the Imperial Government, plus expenses of the mixed British and German Commission appointed to inquire into the disallowance of these claims (without interest) - -	11,250	13	9
(3.) Loan raised to pay the liabilities of the late so-called Government of the Fiji Islands (100,000*l.*) and for general purposes (Works, Immigration, &c.) -	129,000	0	0
The Total Debt - - - -	243,236	16	7

The total amount of the Public Debt paid off at 31st December 1892 was 22,153*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

During the year 1892 the charges paid on account of the Public Debt amounted to 9,343*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The first instalment of the repayment of the Imperial Grants-in-aid was made to the Imperial Treasury, the amount being 1,153*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, or one per cent. of the total amount. In connection with this repayment, the Legislative Council has by resolution represented that the sum of 100,000*l.*, in liquidation of the debts of the Government of King Cakobau paid by the Colony from the loan raised by debentures, should be regarded as a set-off against the grant-in-aid of Revenue made to the Colony when first erected (104,025*l.*) and that as the compensation to German subjects (11,364*l.*) was made as a matter of Imperial policy, and not by reason of any action of the Colonial Government, the Colony should not be called upon to pay back to the Imperial Treasury the sum so expended by Her Majesty's Government.

The loan of 150,000*l.*, from which the sum of 100,000*l.*, spent in liquidating the liabilities of the late Government of the Fiji Islands, was defrayed, costs the Colony annually about 8,200*l.*; including 1,500*l.* by way of sinking fund.

4. MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL BOARDS.

These consist of the Town Board and School Board of Suva and Levuka. Each Town Board consists of six elected members. The School Boards consist of three elected and three nominated members.

The revenue and expenditure of these boards during the year were :—

——	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Town Boards :—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Suva - - -	1,476 5 7	1,465 7 8
Levuka - - -	998 16 7	930 3 2
Total - -	2,475 2 2	2,395 10 10
School Boards :—		
Suva - - -	623 9 7	609 2 4
Levuka - - -	615 13 7	612 16 5
Total - -	1,239 3 2	1,221 18 9

5. Public Works.

The following sums were expended on public works during the year, exclusive of the cost of the establishment :—

	£	s.	d.
Constructing and repairing roads - -	500	6	5
Repairing wharfs at Suva and Levuka - -	955	15	11
Repairs and additions to Government Buildings, viz :—			
Government House, Government offices, police station, magistrates' quarters, bonds, post office, medical officers' quarters, court house and Government House, Levuka, gaols, hospital, lunatic asylum and quarantine station - -	2,568	9	8
Water supply, Suva, repairing - -	29	19	0
Water supply, Levuka, constructing -	735	14	6
Botanic station - - - -	110	11	11
Total - - -	4,900	17	5

6. Legislation.

The principal legislative enactments of the year are comprised in the under-mentioned Ordinances :--

No. 2. "To declare the law with respect to the marriage of Indian immigrants."

This law provides for the registration in the Immigration Department of married Indians arriving in the Colony and for the performance and registration of marriages made in the Colony by Indian immigrants.

No. 6. "To regulate the emigration from this Colony of Indian and Polynesian immigrants."

This Ordinance was designed to prevent the emigration of Indian and Polynesian immigrants from the Colony to foreign countries and to possessions between which and Her Majesty's Government there is no convention allowing emigration from India.

No. 9. "To amend the Real Property Ordinance, 1876."

This Ordinance provides that no under-lease for the period of one year or upwards shall be valid unless registered.

No. 10. "For the solemnization of marriages," and

No. 16. "For the registration of births, deaths, and marriages."

Since the date of Cession, marriages have been solemnised and births, deaths, and marriages have been registered under an Act of New South Wales, which was temporarily adopted as the law of the Colony. The Ordinances now passed provide local laws. This removes from the Statute Book the last of the laws of New South Wales, which were adopted at the date of Cession.

No. 19. "To regulate the supply of spirituous liquor to natives and others."

This law consolidates the several enactments prohibiting the supply of liquor to natives of Fiji, Africa, India, and Malaysia, or of any territory or island adjacent thereto, and to half-castes.

No. 20. "To authorize the reception and detention in Fiji of certain persons when brought there by Her Majesty's naval officers."

7.—ESTABLISHMENTS.

Five European officers and seven native officers resigned during the year. One European officer (Mr. F. C. Fuller, late Resident Commissioner at Rotumah) was transferred to the Colony of Lagos. Eight native officers died, and six were dismissed during the year.

Two officers, Mr. W. L. Allardyce, Assistant Native Commissioner, and Mr. William Sutherland, Stipendiary Magistrate, were absent on leave during the year. The duties of the former were performed by Mr. Basil H. Thomson, and those of Mr. Sutherland by Mr. F. R. S. Baxendale, and later by Mr. H. Monckton.

Thirty-five officers gave security (in the aggregate sum of 6,900*l.*) for the due discharge of their duties.

8. PENSIONS.

The Pension list stands at 433*l.*

One native officer who drew pension at the rate of 6*l.* per annum died during the year.

9.—POPULATION.

The estimated population at 31st December 1892, with the births, marriages and deaths registered during the year, is returned as follows:—

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—	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.	Population to the Square Mile.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.					
Europeans - - -	1,488	793	—	—	2,281	·294	65	20	22
Half-castes - - -	—	—	544	558	1,102	·142	23	8	13
Indians - - - -	—	—	6,113	2,990	9,103	1·176	223	—	246
Polynesians - - -	—	—	2,075	377	2,452	·316	9	12	85
Rotumans - - -	—	—	1,047	1,160	2,207	·285	79	19	91
Fijians - - - -	—	—	56,725	51,020	107,742	13·92	3,996	969	5,222
Others - - - -	—	—	247	305	552	·076	2	—	—
Total - - -	1,488	793	66,751	56,410	125,442	16·209	4,397	1,058	5,679

The number of immigrant labourers introduced during the year was—

Indian immigrants	1,534
Polynesian do.	214
Total	1,748

The number of those who have left the Colony or have been returned to their homes was—

Indian immigrants	496
Polynesian do.	147
Total	643

The net gain to the population by labour immigration was thus 1,105.

The Native population suffered a decrease of 1,226 souls during the year. The birth-rate of the native population during the year was 38·19 and the death-rate 49·91 per mille. The heavy death-rate is due to the epidemic of influenza and to the prevalence of whooping-cough and local epidemics of dysentery.

10.—Ecclesiastical.

There are six European churches in the Colony, four of Protestant denominations (viz. Church of England two, Presbyterian one, Wesleyan one), and two of the Roman Catholic body.

The missions at work among the natives belong to the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Churches.

It appears from the following statistics that ten-elevenths of the community belong to the former body and one-eleventh to the latter.

Mission Statistics.

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches	979
Other preaching places	334
European missionaries	11
Native ministers	70
Catechists	52
Teachers	1,126
Local preachers	2,081
Class leaders	3,405
Church members (English and Native)	30,961
On trial for membership	5,534

Communicants	19
Catechumens	7,001
Day schools	1,951
Day school scholars	38,307
Day school teachers	2,417
Sabbath schools	1,688
Sabbath schools, scholars	38,292
Sabbath schools, teachers	2,489
Adherents	99,835

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries	23
Churches and chapels	78
Training institutions (European)	1
„ „ (Native)	3
Native teachers	180
European sisters	20
Adherents	about 10,205
Schools for Natives	144
Schools for Europeans	3
Native scholars	1,950
European scholars	135
European teachers	9

11.—EDUCATION.

There are two State-aided public schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an average attendance (mixed) of 146 scholars.

The Government grant contributed to these schools during the year amounted to 614*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

One native technical school is maintained by Government for the instruction of natives in sawing timber, carpentry, house-building, boat-building, ship-building, and the cultivation of food. Seventy-three native youths were in residence during the year.

The Roman Catholic Mission maintain two schools for Europeans, with an average attendance of 108 pupils.

The elementary education of the natives is conducted entirely by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions.

The schools of the Wesleyan Mission number 1,951, with an attendance of 38,307.

The schools of the Roman Catholic Mission number 144, with an attendance of 1,950.

12.—CURRENCY.

The average rate of exchange with London during the past year was—

At 60 days' sight, 1½ per cent. premium.
At 30 days' sight, 2 per cent. premium.
On demand, 2½ per cent. premium.

There are two banks doing business in the Colony, viz., the Bank of New Zealand (two branches), and the Union Bank of Australia (Limited), one branch.

The amount of coin (British sterling) in circulation is estimated at 96,000*l.*, and the circulation of notes at 4,000*l.*

13.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total trade of the Colony for each of the past four years has been as is shown in the following statement:—

TOTAL VALUE OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE OF THE COLONY.

1.—*Value of the Total Imports and Exports of the Colony, distinguishing between Produce raised in the Colony and Produce Imported for Exportation.*

—	1889.			1890.			1891.			1892.		
IMPORTS:—	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
For use in the Colony -	188,339	7	1	195,981	6	1	236,529	1	6	253,265	15	4
*Produce imported for exportation - -	1,053	14	0	10,776	3	4	16,519	13	5	320	5	0
Total - - -	189,393	1	1	206,757	9	5	253,048	14	11	253,586	0	4
EXPORTS:—												
Produce raised in the Colony - - -	363,227	18	6	353,756	9	6	457,814	10	1	434,470	11	1
Imported produce exported - -	1,053	14	0	10,776	3	4	16,519	13	5	320	5	0
Total - - -	364,281	12	6	364,532	12	10	474,334	3	6	434,790	16	1
Total of Imports and Exports - -	553,674	13	7	571,290	2	3	727,382	18	5	688,373	16	5

* This is South Sea Island produce.

The value of the total Imports (253,586*l.*) is but slightly above the Imports of the previous year, but as the value of the produce imported for exportation is less than last year by 16,200*l.*, the

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value of Imports for use in the Colony exceeds the corresponding figures of last year by that amount. The value of Imports is higher than that of any year since 1885. The value of Exports (434,790*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*) is less than in the previous year by 39,006*l.*, but is greater than in any other year since the foundation of the Colony.

This reduction is attributable to three causes :—

(1.) It happened that in the year 1892 the value of South Sea Island produce imported and exported was only 320*l.* as compared with 16,520*l.* in the year 1891. Thus the reduction of 39,006*l.* in the value of exports means a reduction of only 22,806 in the value of "exports the produce of the colony."

(2.) The export of sugar was less by 1,587 tons (value 25,393*l.*) than in 1891. This decrease is merely incidental. The operations in sugar in the Colony are extending.

(3.) Copra exported during the year 1892 was valued at 8*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton, the valuation during the previous year having been 9*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* The quantity of Fijian copra exported during 1892 was 5,901 tons as compared with 5,019 tons in the previous year. There was no export of imported copra during 1892, while the quantity of imported copra exported during the previous year was 1,425 tons.

The value of the total trade of the Colony for the year (688,377*l.*) is less than that of the previous year (727,383*l.*) by 39,006*l.*; but, as mentioned above, the falling-off is more apparent than real, and is owing mainly to the paucity of "produce imported for exportation" and "imported produce exported." If these items, which do not practically affect the prosperity of the Colony, be taken out of account, the resulting figures for the past four years, which represent the imports for use in the Colony and exports of produce raised in the Colony, will be as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	For use in the Colony.	Produce of Colony.	Exclusive of Produce Imported and Exported.
	£	£	£
1889 - -	188,339	363,228	551,567
1890 - -	195,981	353,756	549,737
1891 - -	236,529	457,814	694,343
1892 - -	253,266	434,470	687,726

The total value of the imports for use in the Colony and of the exports the produce of the Colony is thus only 6,607*l.* below the corresponding figures of the previous year, notwithstanding the above-mentioned falling off in the export of sugar and the reduction in the export value of Copra.

The following table shows the countries with which the import and export trade of the Colony is carried on, and the value of the imports and exports from each place:—

Return showing the Total Value of Imports into Fiji from the different countries for the year ending 31*st December*, 1892.

Country.	Dutiable.			Free.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
India - - - -	3,088	16	2	260	14	6	3,349	10	8
Line Islands - - -	4	0	0	—			4	0	0
New Caledonia - -	255	1	8	250	0	0	505	1	8
New Hebrides - -	257	15	6	144	8	6	402	4	0
New South Wales - -	125,210	9	0	61,179	12	1	186,390	1	1
New Zealand - - -	21,918	10	2	19,438	4	7	41,356	14	9
Samoa - - - -	9	8	5	—			9	8	5
Solomon Islands - -	0	12	6	—			0	12	6
Tasmania - - -	15	0	0	—			15	0	0
Tonga - - - -	39	13	0	44	0	0	83	13	0
United States - - -	4,412	2	2	8	6	8	4,420	8	10
Victoria - - - -	7,258	15	8	9,365	5	4	16,624	1	0
Wallis Island - - -	232	11	11	192	12	6	425	4	5
Total - - -	162,702	16	2	90,883	4	2	253,586	0	4

Return showing the Value of Exports to the several countries for the year ending 31*st December* 1892.

Whither Exported.	Value.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
France - - - -	14,733	5	0
Futuna - - - -	5	0	0
New Hebrides - - -	224	0	10
New South Wales - - -	68,331	11	6
New Zealand - - -	245,076	17	11
Portugal - - - -	16,040	9	2
Russia - - - -	7,998	2	6
Samoa - - - -	55	8	5
Tonga - - - -	4,626	9	6
United States - - -	2,931	5	0
Victoria - - - -	74,767	10	3
Wallis Island - - -	0	16	6
Total - - -	434,790	16	1

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It will be seen that during the past year there was no direct trade between the Colony and the United Kingdom, all intercommunication being conducted through one or other of the larger Australasian Colonies.

The following statement shows the extent of the trade with those Colonies, and with the United States of America.

Return showing the Total Trade of the Colony of Fiji with the under-mentioned Countries for the Year ending 31*st December* 1892.

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales - -	186,390 1 1	68,331 11 6	254,721 12 7
New Zealand - - -	41,356 14 9	245,076 17 11	286 433 12 8
United States - - -	4,420 8 10	2,931 5 0	7,351 13 10
Victoria - - - -	16,624 1 0	74,767 10 3	91,391 11 3
Total - - -	248,791 5 8	391,107 4 8	639,898 10 4

The trade with the Australasian Colonies forms 91 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony.

Nothing definite can be said of the exports to France, Portugal, Russia, and Tonga, which amounted in the aggregate to 43,398*l.* This amount represents the value of the Copra shipped in vessels which cleared from the Colony for the places named. The vessels that cleared for European countries probably called "For orders" at some convenient port in Europe. The vessels by which the Copra was exported to Tonga went to that group for the purpose of completing their lading.

The ultimate destination of the exports of Copra is not therefore known, but it is believed that a considerable quantity of it reaches London, Hamburg, and Antwerp.

Imports.

The following table indicates the nature and the value of the principal Imports during the past four years:—

Nature of Import.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and hams - -	1,414	1,317	1,177	1,218
2. Bags and sugar mats - -	4,785	5,879	6,180	4,432
3. Beer - - - - -	2,987	2,298	3,264	2,726
4. Boots and shoes - -	2,897	3,171	3,387	3,661

Nature of Imports.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£
5. Breadstuffs and biscuits -	16,114	14,086	16,111	18,047
6. Butter - - -	1,271	1,712	1,752	2,482
7. Cordage - - -	1,705	1,509	1,567	1,338
8. Cigars and cigarettes -	727	830	722	913
9. Coals - - -	6,550	9,736	10,405	18,449
10. Cutlery - - -	1,736	1,891	1,769	1,944
11. Doors and sashes - -	290	179	633	430
12. Drapery - - -	41,699	37,212	48,273	48,022
13. Drugs - - - -	1,978	2,294	2,294	2,441
14. Fish - - - -	1,999	1,755	1,969	2,121
15. Fruits, bottled and dried -	564	517	684	606
16. Furniture - - -	544	1,051	1,479	1,604
17. Galvanised iron and goods -	2,829	2,916	6,385	5,911
18. Glassware and crockery -	2,334	2,505	3,256	2,880
19. Hardware - - -	7,795	8,003	10,456	12,978
20. Iron, bar, rod - - -	357	679	920	957
21. Iron rails and pipes - -	554	234	1,452	3,049
22. Jam and jellies -	540	450	566	545
23. Jewellery - - -	1,186	1,326	1,046	1,308
24. Leatherware - - -	1,462	1,557	2,558	2,038
25. Live stock - - -	4,001	4,109	6,865	8,115
26. Machinery - - -	4,048	7,121	7,285	8,251
27. „ Agricultural -	798	1,452	4,400	3,121
28. Manure - - -	8,132	10,983	7,651	10,600
29. Meats - - -	7,948	9,169	10,793	11,844
30. Musical instruments - -	335	525	964	552
31. Nails - - - -	697	862	1,113	1,075
32. Oils - - - -	4,889	6,031	5,667	4,612
33. Pickles and oilstores - -	1,756	1,711	2,367	2,502
34. Oats - - - -	241	375	402	1,489
35. Paints - - - -	1,911	1,012	2,336	1,534
36. Produce - - -	2,903	4,333	4,205	5,163
37. Rice - - - -	11,451	10,193	11,237	10,403
38. Ship chandlery - -	2,159	1,889	2,111	1,622
39. Soap - - - -	1,585	1,557	2,037	1,877
40. Spirits - - -	2,817	2,758	2,780	3,046
41. Stationery - - -	2,490	2,338	2,669	3,051
42. Sugar - - - -	718	1,292	824	1,277
43. Tea - - - -	238	123	152	113
44. Timber - - -	5,426	4,094	9,362	8,594
45. Tobacco - - -	1,163	1,240	949	1,293
46. Vegetables and green fruits -	2,866	2,298	1,969	2,159
47. Wines - - - -	1,166	896	1,190	1,353
48. Woodenware - - -	1,330	1,228	1,426	1,626

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It will by comparison be seen that the importation of the following articles has considerably increased during the past year, viz., breadstuffs and biscuits (duty free), coal (duty free), hardware (duty 12½ per cent. ad valorem), iron rails and pipes (duty free), live stock (duty free), manure (duty free), meats (duty free).

There has been a decrease in the importation of bags and sugar mats (duty free), oils, timber, and ship chandlery.

Exports.

Sugar, green fruit, and copra constitute 95 per cent. of the total Exports.

The export of each of these items of Colonial production during the past four years has been as shown hereunder :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Greenfruit.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Bunches.	Cases.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£			£
1889 -	13,178	263,554	5,567	38,179	531,008	4,499	42,525
1890 -	15,291	244,655	3,446	31,013	720,788	5,777	57,525
1891 -	20,470	327,526	5,020	46,432	784,675	4,518	61,501
1892 -	18,883	302,133	5,901	49,422	788,100	5,733	62,442

The other exports consist of the following items :—

		£
Peanuts, 379 tons - - - -	valued at	7,074
Desiccated cocoanuts, 57 tons -	„	3,190
Cocoanuts, 7,927 sacks - -	„	1,982
Cotton, 33½ tons - - -	„	1,878
Beche de Mer, 23¾ tons - -	„	1,190
Maize 6,668 bushels - - -	„	1,000
Tortoiseshell, 15 cwt. - - -	„	882
Wool, 6 tons - - - -	„	560
Pearlshell, 12¾ tons - - -	„	513

Minor exports comprise curiosities, hides, molasses, yams, tea, arrowroot, bones, cigars, fibre dust, fruits dried and preserved (3¼ tons), fungus, ginger, herbs, jams, lime, mats, plants and seeds, sandalwood, shark fins, sinnet, turtles, yagona, and vanilla.

The last-named item appears on the export list for the first time. The quantity exported was 1 cwt., value 120*l*. The item "cigars" is also new. It is also to be noted that "desiccated cocoa-nut" has risen to be the fifth item in point of importance on the Export List of the year.

The foreign trade of the Colony is shared between the two ports of entry in the following proportions :—

——	Port of Suva.	Port of Levuka.
	£	£
Imports - - -	180,479	73,107
Exports - - -	376,283	58,508
Total - - -	556,762	131,615
Duty collected	22,221	10,203

The total amount of Revenue raised by Customs Duties on Imports was 32,424*l.*, which is equal to a uniform duty of 12·8 per centum on the value of Imports.

There were 815 packages in bonded warehouses on 31st December 1892, comprising 419 packages of spirits, 30 of wines, 135 cases of beer, 35 of tobacco and cigars, and 85 packages of drapery.

14.—Navigation.

The number and tonnage of merchant vessels entering from abroad at the two ports of entry in the Colony during each of the past four years are as under :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		
1889 - - -	62	40,892	27	10,328	89	51,220
1890 - - -	60	49,306	19	7,405	79	56,711
1891 - - -	68	57,859	33	11,417	101	69,276
1892 - - -	63	55,307	28	14,137	91	69,444

The nationality of these vessels is shown below :—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1889 - - - - - -	79	46,005	1	224	1	517	7	4,452
1890 - - - - - -	75	53,337	1	279	1	1,703	2	1,392
1891 - - - - - -	88	62,873	5	1,039	2	1,546	6	3,818
1892 - - - - - -	78	62,498	3	1,368	2	1,044	5	3,334

(*continued.*)

Year.	Tongan.		Danish.		Nicaraguan.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1889 - - - - - -	1	22	—	—	—	—
1890 - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1891 - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1892 - - - - - -	1	53	1	474	1	673

The internal shipping of the Colony consists of a subsidized steamer and a fleet of small sailing vessels, many of which are owned by natives.

Seagoing certificates were issued during the year 1892 to 331 local vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 3,320, an average of about 10 tons, but the size of most of the vessels ranges between four and eight tons.

The number owned by Europeans and by natives respectively was:—

—	No.	Tonnage.
European owned vessels - - -	90	1,561
Native owned vessels - - - -	241	1,759
Total - -	331	3,320

Open boats, canoes, and boats under two tons register are not included in the foregoing figures.

15.—AGRICULTURE.

	Acres.
The estimated total acreage of the Colony is - - - -	4,953,920
The acreage for which Crown Grants have been issued is - - -	420,375
The estimated acreage of land under cultivation by Europeans is -	35,778
This acreage is under the following crops:—	
Cocoanuts - - - -	19,621
Sugar cane - - - -	11,669
Bananas - - - -	2,284

	Acres.
Tea	456
Maize	380
Peanuts	306
Yams	181
Cotton	30
Tobacco	67
Other produce	784
Total	35,778

The following extract from the "Fiji Times" of 25th May 1892 relates to the first consignment of Vanilla exported from the Colony:—

(Extract from the "Fiji Times" of the 25th May 1892.)

"We have much pleasure in placing before our readers the Report on Vanillas sent to Mr. Leslie E. Brown by Messrs. Langton, Hicks, Bros. & Co., wholesale druggists, of Melbourne:—

"'Dear Sir,

"'In rendering you the account sales of your first consignment of Fijian Vanillas, I must congratulate you on the prices realised, viz., 22*s.* 6*d.* per lb. for $\frac{3}{4}$ths of the consignment, and 21*s.* 6*d.* per lb. for the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$th. Unless the quality had been very satisfactory, no such prices would have been obtained; and, if future consignments are up to the quality now sent, I can see that Fijian Vanillas will command a good price and a great sale. Speaking from an experience of nearly forty years, during which time I have handled considerable quantities of Vanillas, I unhesitatingly say the quality of what you have sent me is equal to any Vanilla grown in the Mauritius or elsewhere. I have now before me the original sample you sent me to report upon. The beans are plump and well cured, and are beginning to throw out splendid crystals. In future consignments it will be necessary to sort the Vanillas and tin them according to their lengths, and care should be taken not to pack the tins too closely.

"'Very faithfully yours,

"'RIVERS LANGTON.'"

Vanilla is a crop that requires no extensive acreage. Experiments have been made in the growing and curing of it during the past few years, and it is expected that the quantity exported will increase materially in the near future.

The following advertisement extracted from the "Fiji Times" of 30th November 1892, indicates something of a new departure on the part of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. which, by enabling Planters who may be possessed of only a limited capital to commence or extend operations, will probably have the effect of increasing the acreage of sugar cane under cultivation.

The plan has also been adopted by another sugar company.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Co. (Limited) offers to pay the following prices for Sugar-cane delivered into their punts at the banks of navigable water :—

For Cane grown under five years' contract from 1*st January* 1893.

		s.	*d.*
If Planter supplies his own tramway material,	per ton	13	0
If the Company supplies tram line and trucks,	„	12	6

For Non-contract Cane delivered during 1893.

		s.	*d.*
If planter supplies his own tramway material,	per ton	12	6

By special arrangement non-contractors may obtain the use of the Company's tramway material.

The Company makes advances on six months' and twelve months' old cane, provided the condition of the growing cane warrants it.

Details as to the varieties of cane approved of can be obtained from the Manager in Fiji.

Smaller or larger areas of land may be obtained from the Company for the purpose of cane cultivation.

R. Gemmell Smith,
Manager in Fiji for the Colonial
Sugar Refining Company (Limited), Sydney.

The live stock owned by Europeans at the end of the year is returned as follows :—

Horses - - - -	1,202
Horned cattle - - -	9,462
Sheep - - - -	6,050
Goats - - - -	3,855

1[illegible]. MANUFACTORIES.

There are eleven sugar mills in the Colony with a nominal daily out-put of 136 tons of dried sugar, two tea factories with a nominal daily out-put of 600 lbs. of dried tea, two desiccated cocoanut factories, ten boat-building yards, and one tobacco factory.

17. CRIME.

The criminal statistics of the Colony are set forth in the following table:—

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions, and Acquittals for the last four years.

——	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
The number of persons apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates	4,377	3,612	5,799	5,509[1]
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. For offences against the person -	242	253	394	357[2]
2. For larceny - - - -	185	156	254	268[3]
3. For offences against property - -	233	155	247	238[4]
4. For other offences - - -	2,405	2,400	3,779	3,511[5]
The number of convictions in the superior courts:—				
1. For offences against the person -	16	19	15	20
2. For larceny - - - -	1	2	4	1
3. For offences against property - -	5	5	7	5
4. For other offences - - -	2	4	4	4
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,233	604	1,086	1,087[6]
2. In the Superior courts - - -	29	9	12	11

[1] 1,253 cases heard in Provincial Courts under Native Regulations.
[2] 99 Do. Do.
[3] 27 Do. Do.
[4] 45 Do. Do.
[5] 622 Do. Do.
[6] 459 Do. Do.

As compared with the previous year there is a slight diminution both in the number of cases tried and in the number of convictions.

The figures given for the years 1889 and 1890 do not include cases heard before the Provincial Courts established under the Native Regulations.

FIJI. 1892.

18. HOSPITAL.

Six hundred and twenty-one persons were treated in the Colonial Hospital during the year, the class of patients being as shown in the following table :—

Classes treated.	No. of Cases.*	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate Per Centum.
Europeans - -	32	6	18·75
Fijians - - -	250	4	1·60
Polynesians - -	96	20	20·83
Indians - - -	226	10	4·42
Miscellaneous - -	17	1	5·88
Total - -	621	41	6·60

* Includes those remaining in Hospital after December 31st, 1891, as well as those admitted during 1892.

The daily average in hospital during the year was 55·37. There were 41 deaths in the hospital during the year.

The causes of death are given hereunder :—

Analysis of Causes of Death 1892—*Colonial Hospital, Suva.*

Serial Number in Hospital Register.	Admitted for	Died of
Fijians.		
632–91	Elephantiasis of scrotum -	Embolism, gangrene of arm, acute dysentery.
218	Strumous nodes and ulceration.	Femoral aneurism.
455	Tubercular meningitis -	Tubercular meningitis.
499	Pneumonia - - -	Pneumonia.
Polynesians.		
639–91	Pneumonia - - -	Dysentery.
658–91	Dementia following influenza	Do.
661–91	Round-worms, gonorrhœa -	Acute peritonitis.
65	Sequelæ of influenza -	Asthenia.
74	Moribund - - -	Dysentery following influenza.
75	Do. - - -	Pneumonia.
76	Broncho-pneumonia, after influenza.	Broncho-pneumonia.
77	Dysentery and enteritis -	Dysentery and enteritis.

Serial Number in Hospital Register.	Admitted for	Died of
78	Dysentery after influenza	Dysentery after influenza.
137	Phthisis	Syncope.
227	Iliac abscess	Iliac abscess.
308	Anæmia, pericarditis	Pericarditis.
370	Dysentery (moribund)	Dysentery.
382	Tubercular laryngitis	Tubercular laryngitis.
394	Dysentery	Dysentery.
397	Pneumonia and bronchitis	Cardiac failure.
429	Phthisis	Phthisis.
519	Albuminuria, multiple abscesses.	Dysentery.
531	Lumbar Abscess	Lumbar Abscess.
537	Tubercular enteritis	Tubercular enteritis.
Indians.		
69	Phthisis	Phthisis.
142	Anæmia	Anæmia.
287	Obstipati, peritonitis	Peritonitis.
312	Anæmia, mitral regurgitation	Anæmia, mitral regurgitation.
365	Contused and lacerated wound of ancle.	Gangrene, followed by tetanus
373	Cancer of pylorus and liver, bronchitis, ascites, conjunctivitis.	Peritonitis.
420	Abscess of brain	Abscess of brain.
426	Phthisis	Phthisis.
469	Anæmia	Anæmia.
506	Do.	Do.
Europeans.		
636–91	Septicæmia	Pyæmia.
319	Frambœsia	Senility.
377	Acute alcoholism, malarial fever (moribund).	Acute alcoholism.
411	Moribund, bronchitis, peritonitis.	Peritonitis.
450	Pernicious anæmia	Pernicious Anæmia.
488	Cancer of pylorus and liver	Cancer of pylorus and liver.
Miscellaneous.		
202	Bronchitis	Bronchitis and senility.

Thirteen patients were admitted to the Public Lunatic Asylum during the year. Eight were discharged and one died. The daily average number in the Asylum was 8·12.

19. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following synopsis of Meteorological Observations made at Suva during the year is furnished by the Government Meteorological Observer :—

FIJI. 1892.

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS taken at SUVA, FIJI, during 1892, at 9 a.m.

Longitude—178° 26′ E. Latitude—18° 8′ S. Height above mean sea level—10 feet. All corrections applied.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							Tension of Vapour, 9 a.m.	Relative Humidity, 9 a.m. Sat. = 100.
		Mean.	Means of		Absolute Minimum and Maximum.					
			Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Date.	Maximum.	Date.	Mean.	Mean.
January -	29·845	83	74	87	70	11th	90	13th, 14th, 15th, 22nd.	0·810	72
February -	29·897	84	76	88	72	25th	94	8th	0·840	72
March - -	29·928	83	75	87	72	13th, 21st, 22nd, 24th	90	30th, 31st	0·810	72
April - -	30·020	81	72	85	67	26th	91	3rd	0·757	72
May - -	30·073	77	67	82	66	16th	87	25th	0·697	75
June - -	30·107	75	69	80	63	10th, 27th	85	4th	0·650	74
July - -	30·112	74	69	78	65	31st	83	13th	0·664	79
August -	30·096	77	71	80	67	1st	87	27th	0·697	75
September -	30·051	78	70	82	63	10th	90	18th	0·722	75
October -	30·040	80	72	84	67	15th	90	24th	0·732	71
November -	29·948	80	73	83	68	26th	87	13th, 23rd	0·782	71
December -	29·865	82	74	85	70	10th	89	25th, 28th, 31st	0·785	72
Year -	29·999	80	72	83	63	10th and 27th June, and 10th September.	94	8th February	0·741	73

Height of the Thermometers above the ground =4 ft. Height of the Rain Gauge above the ground= 24 ft.

Months.	Amount of Cloud. 9 A.M.	Rainfall.			Weather. Number of Days of					Wind. Number of Observations of								
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January - - - -	5	11·62	2·59	2nd	23	4	1	5	0	5	0	2	14	2	4	2	2	0
February - - -	5	5·19	1·11	1st	24	12	6	2	0	9	2	6	10	1	0	0	1	0
March - - - -	5	15·54	3·57	17th	29	9	1	3	0	5	2	15	7	1	0	0	1	0
April - - - -	5	13·48	3·18	5th	19	2	0	5	0	2	0	14	13	0	1	0	0	0
May - - - -	6	4·15	0·79	1st	22	0	0	3	0	0	3	11	13	1	2	1	0	0
June - - - -	6	5·92	1·64	16th	19	0	0	4	0	0	3	10	12	1	0	0	4	0
July - - - -	7	9·42	3·23	2nd	24	0	1	7	0	1	4	16	8	0	0	0	2	0
August - - - -	7	4·07	0·72	2nd, 29th	22	0	2	17	0	5	16	6	2	2	0	0	0	0
September - - -	5	8·02	2·10	19th	19	2	2	11	0	1	4	11	7	2	2	1	2	0
October - - - -	6	20·00	3·95	13th	21	10	1	12	0	3	5	11	8	3	1	0	0	0
November - - -	7	6·87	3·57	18th	23	1	0	12	0	4	9	9	8	0	0	0	0	0
December - -	5	10·25	1·90	17th	24	2	0	10	1	7	2	7	11	1	2	0	1	0
Year - - -	69	114·53	3·95	13/10/92	269	42	14	91	1	42	50	118	113	14	12	4	13	0

The foregoing figures represent the meteorology of the capital. On the leeward side of the larger islands the rainfall is considerably less.

20. Roads.

The total length of the roads made throughout the Colony exceeds 767 miles.

In addition to this there are Native footpaths everywhere.

21. Post Office.

The number of letters dealt with in the Central Post Offices of the Colony during the year is estimated as follows:—

Statement of the Estimated Total number of Letters, etc. dealt with in 1892.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters	216,588	7,858	7,331	44,728	40,354	326,839
Post cards	—	-	—	—	—	—
Newspapers	131,467	28,000	2,223	54,911	8,940	225,541
Book packets, samples, and circulars	150,071	503	578	6,004	1,882	159,038
Parcels	—	214	50	—	—	264
Telegrams	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Including Registered Despatched. 2,499 Received. 474).

General Observations.

A supply of water was laid on to the town of Levuka during the year.

A native market, built at a cost of 457*l.*, was opened in Suva. This building is extensively availed of by Natives who bring produce to town.

A complete distillery apparatus, capable of making 5,250 gallons of silent spirit per week, was introduced by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company during the year.

A sawmill capable of turning out 5,000 feet of sawn and timber (*sic*) per diem was also imported.

In view of the healthy nature of the country, the Colonial Mutual Assurance Company have modified the rate of premium chargeable on lives in Fiji. Policies of insurance have heretofore been subject to a special charge of one per centum per annum in view of tropical residence. The Directors of the Company have concluded to forego this charge in the case of insured persons who have resided over five years in the Colony and are passed by the Company's medical officer:

A considerable amount of planting of a more or less experimental nature has been done during the year in the matter of tobacco and ramie. Extensive tracts of country are found to be admirably suited for the cultivation of tobacco, both of the Sumatra and Havanna variety. The cultivation of ramie will proceed as soon as a reliable decorticator is produced. The plant has been grown in Fiji for perhaps twenty years and the acclimatised variety appears superior in size and staple to that grown from plants imported from Kew.

It was found in the Botanic nursery, that plants of Sisal hemp (Agave rigida) suckered in fourteen months, the usual time being, it is understood, two years.

Extensive nursery plantations of Furcroea Gigantea have been established throughout the Colony.

Attention was in the course of the year directed to the possibility of procuring plantation labourers from Japan.

Two Japanese Commissioners connected with an Emigration Society visited the Colony "en route" for the New Hebrides, whither they were proceeding in order to ascertain the suitability of that group for the emigration of Japanese labourers.

The wages of the Japanese labourer are higher than those of the Indian immigrant, but it was represented that he would do twice as much work. The matter is still under the consideration of some of the larger employers of labour.

J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL. 5/

No. 127.

F I J I.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 97.)

Preſented to both Houſes of Parliament by Command of Her Majeſty.

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1895.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
93	Labuan - - - - - -	1892
94	British Honduras - - - - -	"
95	Lagos - - - - - -	"
96	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
97	Fiji - - - - - -	"
98	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
99	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
100	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1892–93
101	British Guiana - - - - -	"
102	Newfoundland - - - - -	1892
103	Jamaica - - - - - -	1892–93
104	Victoria - - - - - -	1892
105	Bermuda - - - - - -	1893
106	Gambia - - - - - -	"
107	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
108	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
109	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
110	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
112	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
113	Barbados - - - - - -	"
114	Malta - - - - - -	"
115	Zululand - - - - - -	"
116	British Honduras - - - - -	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
118	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
119	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
120	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
121	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
122	Labuan - - - - - -	"
123	Basutoland - - - - -	1893–94
124	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1893
125	St. Helena - - - - -	"
126	Ceylon - - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 127.

FIJI. 1893.

FIJI.

[For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 97.]

Acting Governor BERKELEY to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House,
October 20, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith three copies of the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1893, together with a report thereon by the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. BERKELEY,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1893.

1. REVENUE.

The estimated Revenue for the year was 72,406*l.* The actual receipts amounted to 76,774*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, being in excess of the estimate by 4,368*l.* and greater than the Revenue of the year 1892 by 5,221*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* The principal increase accrued under the head of "Customs Dues," the receipts from which were greater by 4,213*l.* than in the previous year. This increase did not arise from any alteration of the Customs Tariff, but from an improvement in the volume of imports. The following are the amounts that have been received under each head of Revenue in the past two years:—

—	1893.			1892.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Customs - - - - -	36,638	15	1	32,425	5	11
2. Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse dues	4,373	11	7	3,238	18	11
3. Native Taxes - - -	17,436	11	0	18,256	4	11
4. Licenses and Internal Revenue -	7,223	2	1	6,600	16	7

—	1893.			1892.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
5. Fees of Court or Office, Payment for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid - - - -	6,639	3	6	6,046	18	11
6. Post Office - - - -	1,915	3	11	1,860	11	0
7. Rent of Government Property -	710	16	4	587	15	6
8. Miscellaneous - - -	1,557	18	7	2,469	18	5
9. Land sales - - - -	279	0	6	66	5	0
	76,774	2	7	71,552	15	2

The receipts derivable from Taxation, consisting of Customs Duties, Native Taxes, License fees, and Stamp Duties, amounted to 59,294*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* or 77·2 per cent. of the whole Revenue.

2. EXPENDITURE.

The Estimated Expenditure was 70,447*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* The Actual Expenditure under the ordinary heads was 74,543*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* or 4,096*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* greater than the Estimate, and 2,230*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* less than the Revenue of the year.

But it was deemed desirable to bring to account a sum of 11,437*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* which, between the years 1883 and 1886, was advanced from Public Account under the Authority of Ordinance No. XX. of 1882.

By that Ordinance it was provided that the Governor might arrange with any Banking Company for an advance of a sum not to exceed 15,000*l.* to be applied exclusively to the construction of public works at Suva. It was found more expedient, however, and more economical, to obtain an overdraft on public account for the sum required, and for some years the amount of the overdraft was borne on the credit side of the annual statement of assets and liabilities, being regarded as a loan from public account. In recent years, however, it has been recognized as a liability also, and during the year 1893 it was brought to account by a vote of the Legislative Council, and is included in the accounts of the year as an item of expenditure under the head of "Public Works Extraordinary." The sum in question represents past expenditure on account of the following matters, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Providing Suva Water Supply -	9,181	19	10
Erection of Government House -	2,255	17	5
Total -	£11,437	17	3

Although this sum appears among the items of expenditure, its inclusion therein does not affect the position of the public account in the bank; and the floating liabilities of the Colony were actually reduced by a sum of 2,082*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* during the year.

The total expenditure of the year (including the repayment of this sum of 11,437*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, was thus 85,981*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, being in excess of the revenue by 9,207*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years is shewn in the following table :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.				Surplus.			
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1889 - -	63,722	0	6		57,710	2	3		6,011	18	3
1890 - -	66,817	5	1		60,826	6	6		5,990	18	7
1891 - -	71,249	18	11		67,819	17	7		3,430	1	4
1892 - -	71,552	15	2		67,651	12	1		3,901	3	1
1893 - -	76,774	2	7	Ordinary	74,543	17	10		2,230	4	9
				Total	85,981	15	1	Deficit	9,207	12	6

3. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The statement of assets and liabilities shows at the end of the year 1893 an excess of liabilities amounting to 2,001*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* This excess stood at 25,359*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* at 31st December 1888 and has been reduced year by year. It is hoped that in the year 1894 it will be altogether extinguished.

4. PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt at 31st December 1893 amounted to 239,681*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* consisting of a loan under debentures bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. of which the balance amounts to 126,600*l.*, and of a debt due to the Imperial Government without interest amounting to 113,081*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

The loan was incurred to pay off the debts of the late so-called government of the Fiji Islands (amounting to 100,000*l.*) and for the initiation of public works and coolie immigration.

The debt due to the Imperial Government consists of two advances. The first, amounting to 104,025*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* (of which 2,080*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* has been repaid) was made in aid of local revenue during the two years succeeding annexation and was expended on the establishment of Government in the group and on the returning to their homes in the New Hebrides and Solomon Groups of the immigrant labourers introduced into Fiji before the cession of the Colony. The second grant (amounting to 11,364*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*,* of which 227*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* has been repaid) was

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* This portion of the debt has been remitted.

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expended in payment of compensation to German subjects in respect of certain of their claims to land in Fiji disallowed by the Lands Commission.

The extent of the reduction of the Floating Liabilities and Public Debt of the Colony during the past five years, is shewn in the following statement.

Year.	Floating Liability at 31st December.	Public Debt at 31st December.			Reduction during the year.
		Under Debenture.	Due to Imperial Government.	Total.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888 - -	25,359 10 5	137,900 0 0	115,389 14 6	253,289 14 6	—
1889 - -	19,822 15 1	135,700 0 0	115,389 14 6	251,089 14 6	7,736 15 4
1890 - -	13,905 1 5	133,600 0 0	115,389 14 6	248,989 14 6	8,017 13 8
1891 - -	8,174 10 1	131,300 0 0	115,389 14 6	246,689 14 6	8,030 11 4
1892 - -	4,083 16 10	129,000 0 0	114,235 16 7	243,235 16 7	7,544 11 2
1893 - -	2,001 11 9	126,600 0 0	113,081 18 8	239,681 18 8	5,636 3 0

The Public Debt of the Colony was equal to 1*l*. 19*s*. 0*d*. per head of the population at 31st December 1893.

5. MUNICIPALITIES.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the two Municipalities in the Colony, were as follows:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Suva - - - - -	1,607 6 5	1,520 13 5
Levuka - - - - -	924 19 4	937 17 4
Total - - - -	2,532 5 9	2,458 10 9

The Town Boards have no borrowing powers, and there is consequently no debt.

6. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Expenditure on Public Works during the year amounted to 6,979*l*. 4*s*. 8*d*., appropriated under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Roads, Bridges, and Culverts, maintenance of - - - -	547	9	9
Wharfs, repairing - - -	1,514	2	8
Repairs and additions to Government Buildings - - - -	4,299	14	4
Extension of and repairs to Water Supply at Suva and Levuka - -	529	17	1
Botanic Station - - -	88	0	10
Total - - -	£6,979	4	8

7. LEGISLATION.

The only laws of general interest passed consisted of:—

Ordinance No. V. To provide for the recognition in the Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom, and in other British Possessions and Courts.

Ordinance No. VI. To prohibit the departure or removal of natives from the Colony without the permission of the Governor.

Ordinance No. X. To repeal the Contagious Diseases Ordinances of 1882 and 1885.

8. POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Colony at 31st December, 1893, was as follows:—

——	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans - - -	1,603	871	2,474
Half-castes - - -	554	571	1,125
Indians - - - -	6,166	3,009	9,175
Polynesians - - -	2,040	373	2,413
Rotumans - - -	985	1,140	2,125
Fijians - - - -	55,921	48,941	104,862
Others - - - -	238	300	538
Total - - -	67,507	55,205	122,712

The births, deaths, and marriages and the respective rates per mille were:—

——	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Marriage Rate.
Europeans - -	62	25	25	25·06	10·10	10·10
Half-castes - -	36	14	16	32·00	12·44	14·22
Indians - - -	262	282	90	28·55	30·73	9·80
Polynesians - -	4	66	17	1·65	27·35	7·04
Rotumans - -	113	90	18	53·17	42·35	8·47
Fijians - - -	4,119	5,180	940	39·70	50·12	8·96
Others - - -	4	—	2	7·43	—	3·71
Total - -	4,600	5,659	1,106	37·48	46·11	9·01

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The comparatively heavy death-rate of Fijians was due to the prevalence of Epidemic Influenza and Whooping Cough, the latter being a disease particularly fatal to native children.

The number of Immigrants arriving and departing during the year was:—

—	Arrived.	Returned home.
Indians - - - - -	777	573
Polynesians - - - - -	—	11
Total - - - -	777	584

9. ECCLESIASTICAL.

The following statistics are furnished by the Religious Missions at work in the colony.

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches - - - -	849
Other preaching places - - -	475
European missionaries - - -	11
Native ministers - - - -	69
Catechists - - - -	52
Teachers - - - -	1,117
Local preachers - - - -	2,062
Class leaders - - - -	3,680
Church members (English and Native) -	30,586
On trial for membership - -	5,276
Communicants - - - -	17
Catechumens - - - -	7,417
Day schools - - - -	1,894
Day school scholars - - -	37,051
Day school teachers - - -	2,381
Sabbath schools - - - -	1,672
Sabbath school scholars - - -	36,819
Sabbath school teachers - - -	2,435
Adherents - - - -	98,959

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries - - -	23
Churches and chapels - - -	81
Training institutions (European) - -	1
Training institutions (Native) - -	3
Native teachers - - - -	182
European sisters - - -	20
Adherents - - -	about 9,700
Schools for Natives - - -	145

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Schools for Europeans - - - -	3
Native scholars - - - -	1,980
European scholars - - - -	124
European teachers - - - -	3

There are six European Churches in the Colony, of which two belong to the Church of England, two to the Roman Catholic, one to the Presbyterian, and one to the Wesleyan body. These churches are capable of accommodating in the aggregate 990 worshippers.

10. EDUCATION.

Education is free and compulsory. There is a School Board for the town of Suva and one for Levuka. The average attendance at these schools is 135 out of a roll of 190.

The revenue and expenditure of these School Boards are:—

——	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Suva School Board - -	698 2 8	642 13 1
Levuka School Board - -	518 0 2	449 4 10

Government Grants amounting to 642*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* were made in 1893. There are also two Roman Catholic Schools for European children in Suva and Levuka, with a roll of 147 pupils and an average attendance of 104.

There is a Native technical school maintained by Government where 73 youths were instructed in elementary education and in sawing timber, carpentry and house building, boat and shipbuilding, and the cultivation of food.

The education of the Native population is in the hands of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions who furnish the following returns:—

——	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
Number of schools -	1,894	145	2,039
Average attendance -	37,051	1,980	39,031

11. PUBLICATIONS.

The Colonial Publications consist of a bi-weekly newspaper issued at Suva with a circulation of 500, a weekly newspaper issued at Levuka with a circulation of 200, and a Native newspaper issued monthly by the Colonial Government with a circulation of 500.

12.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Imports, Exports, and Total Trade of the Colony during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1889 - -	189,393	364,281	553,674
1890 - -	206,757	364,532	571,290
1891 - -	253,049	474,334	727,383
1892 - -	253,586	434,791	688,377
1893 - -	276,398	355,631	632,030

The Imports show a steady advance during each of the five years. The Imports of 1893 show an increase of 46 per cent. on those of 1889.

The Exports of the year 1893, on the other hand, are lower than in any of the five years.

The total trade, however, is the third highest during the period.

The principal imports consist of:—

Breadstuffs (duty free), 19,139*l.*; coal (duty free), 9,604*l.*; drapery, 47,121*l.*; hardware, 11,247*l.*; live stock (duty free), 14,466*l.*; machinery (duty free), 27,068*l.*; meats (duty free), 12,892*l.*; rice, 12,396*l.*; timber, 9,089*l.*; galvanized iron and goods, 5,717*l.*; oils, 5,281*l.*; oats, 5,611*l.*; beer, 3,267*l.*; boots and shoes, 3,410*l.*; and spirits, 3,039*l.*

The quantity and value of the three staple products of the Colony—sugar, green fruit, and copra—exported during the five years in question are given in the following table:—

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1889 -	13,178	263,533	42,525	5,567	38,179
1890 -	15,291	244,655	57,525	3,446	31,013
1891 -	20,471	327,526	61,501	5,019	46,431
1892 -	18,883	302,133	62,442	5,901	49,422
1893 -	15,389	246,231	36,597	4,970	42,235

These figures represent Exports the produce of the Colony only.

The total falling off in exports during the year 1893 as compared with the previous year amounts to 79,160*l.* The falling off on the three principal items of export amounts to:—

	£
Sugar - - - - -	55,902
Green fruit - - - -	25,845
Copra - - - - -	7,187
Total - - -	£88,934

The decrease in the export of sugar and copra may be regarded as due principally to floods and inclement weather. The falling off in the export of green fruit is due mainly to the temporary lack of a profitable market in the Australian Colonies, owing to the ruling commercial depression there existing, and the competition of Queensland, and to the prevalence of a disease among the banana plantations of the Colony, in consequence of which a number of the planters have ceased to cultivate fruit, and, embracing the favourable offers made by the sugar mills, have put their land under sugar cane.

The other principal exports consisted of colonial distilled spirits (106,920 gallons, 13,365*l.*); desiccated cocoanut (2,121*l.*); cocoanuts (1,342*l.*); cotton (2,260*l.*); maize (2,679*l.*); and peanuts (3,587*l.*)

"Colonial distilled spirits" appears for the first time on the list of 1893 as an export of some magnitude.

The following table shows the countries from which the several imports were received during the year:—

Country.	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
India - - - -	2,423 1 4	146 12 6	2,569 13 10
New Caledonia - -	228 1 0	85 11 6	313 12 6
New Hebrides - -	13 0 0	5 0 0	18 0 0
New South Wales - -	130,388 15 11	63,784 12 2	194,173 8 1
New Zealand - - -	27,921 13 3	13,094 5 10	41,015 19 1
Tonga - - - -	11 13 3	—	11 13 3
United Kingdom - -	3,427 13 2	15,051 12 8	18,479 5 10
United States - - -	3,733 8 10	10 0 0	3,743 8 10
Victoria - - - -	4,178 13 10	10,540 1 3	14,718 15 1
Wallis Island - - -	37 9 5	1,317 0 8	1,354 10 1
Total - - -	172,363 10 0	104,034 16 7	276,398 6 7

Most of the import trade with the United Kingdom passes through one or other of the Australasian Colonies and appears as an import from these Colonies.

The destination of exports is set forth in the following table:—

Whither Exported.	Value.		
	£	s.	d.
Futuna	10	12	0
Italy	7,855	13	0
Line Islands	6	18	0
New South Wales	63,234	7	4
New Zealand	189,621	3	3
New Caledonia	68	8	0
Portugal	13,746	10	10
Russia	5,934	2	6
Samoa	54	15	6
Tonga	129	14	2
United Kingdom	9,740	16	4
Vancouver	79	8	8
Victoria	65,145	10	9
Wallis Island	3	13	2
Total	355,631	13	6

The total trade of the Colony for the year 1893 was divided among the countries dealt with in the following proportions:—

Countries.	Total Trade.	Percentage.
	£	
New South Wales	257,408	40·75
Victoria	79,864	12·64
New Zealand	230,637	36·49
Total Australian Colonies	567,909	
India	2,570	·41
United Kingdom	28,220	4·46
Russia	5,934	·94
Italy	7,855	1·24
Portugal	13,747	2·17
United States	3,743	·59
Other countries	2,052	·32
Total	632,030	

13.—NAVIGATION.

There was a slight increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels entered at the ports of entry in the Colony during the year.

The figures for the past four years are given hereunder:—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1890	60	49,306	19	7,405	79	56,711
1891	68	57,859	33	11,417	101	69,276
1892	63	55,307	28	16,137	91	69,444
1893	71	64,710	21	10,721	92	75,431

The nationality of the vessels visiting the Colony is shown below :—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1890 - - - - - -	75	53,337	1	279	1	1,703	2	1,392
1891 - - - - - -	88	62,873	5	1,039	2	1,546	6	3,818
1892 - - - - - -	78	62,498	3	1,368	2	1,044	5	5,334
1893 - - - -	79	68,421	2	429	3	2,002	5	3,174

(*continued.*)

Year.	Tongan.		Danish.		Nicaraguan.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1890 - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1891 - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1892 - - - - - -	1	53	1	474	1	673
1893 - - - - - -	1	59	—	—	2	1,346

The increase of tonnage in respect of the year 1893 is probably due to the advent of the Canadian-Australian line of steamers sailing between Sydney and Vancouver, which began to make Suva a port of call in November of that year. The shipping on the registers of the ports of Suva and Levuka at 31st December, 1893 consisted of only six vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 180 tons.

But, except for the interinsular steamer, which is not locally registered, almost the whole of the internal trade of the Colony is carried on in vessels which are of small tonnage and are unregistered.

The number and tonnage of such vessels, holding, at the end of the year 1893, seagoing certificates issued by the Fiji Marine Board, were :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
European-owned vessels - - - -	97	1,280
Native-owned vessels - - - - -	211	1,664
Total - -	308	2,944

The foregoing statement does not include canoes or open boats, and a number of native-owned vessels employed in the Provinces are also unrepresented therein.

14. LAND AND AGRICULTURE.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920 acres. Of this area 422,998 have been granted, leaving 4,530,962 in the hands of the natives.

It is estimated that 37,311 acres of land are under cultivation by Europeans in crop as follows:—

	Acres.
Peanuts	238
Bananas	2,031
Pineapples	80
Beans	14
Cocoanuts	17,427
Maize	435
Sugar Cane	15,759
Tobacco	111
Cotton	20
Rice	146
Limes	11
Sisal Hemp	160
Yams	171
Potatoes, Kumalas, &c	183
Tea	460
Other produce	65
Total	37,311

The area under Sugar Cane has increased, while those under Rice, Sisal Hemp, and Limes are reported for the first time. The cultivation of bananas has diminished, for reasons mentioned under the head of "Exports."

The live-stock owned by Europeans is returned at the following figures:—

Horses	1,381
Horned cattle	10,134
Sheep	5,082
Goats	4,179

These figures indicate a general increase except in the case of sheep which appear to have diminished by about a thousand in number. The supply of cattle is equal to the demand, which consists mainly of the requirements of the European communities in the towns and at the sugar mills.

15. MANUFACTORIES.

The manufactories of the Colony are reported to consist of eleven sugar mills with a nominal daily output of 136 tons; two tea factories capable of turning out 600 lbs. of dried tea per diem, two desiccated cocoanut factories, fourteen boat-building yards, and one tobacco factory.

16. HOSPITAL.

Seven hundred and fifty-six cases were treated in the colonial hospital during the year, resulting in 43 deaths, or 5·78 per centum of the cases treated.

Of these cases only twenty-six were Europeans, of whom three died,—one from senile decay, one of Hepatic abscess, and one from the results of an accidental gunshot wound of the brain.

17. METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall for the year at Suva amounted to 96·45 inches. The average rainfall for the past seven years has been 106·95 inches.

The absolute maximum temperature during the year at Suva occurred on 24th December, when the thermometer registered 94° Fahr. in the shade. The absolute minimum was 62° Fahr. on 27th July. The mean minimum temperature for the year was 72° Fahr., the mean maximum being 81°.

Some parts of the Colony are much drier, however, than the capital, and in the interior of Viti Levu a much lower temperature is experienced.

18. COMMUNICATION.

Steam communication with Sydney was regularly maintained (except when interfered with by the operation of quarantine) by two steamers a month and with Melbourne by one steamer a month.

Communication with New Zealand was maintained by one direct monthly steamer and also, during a portion of the year, by one steamer viâ Tonga and Samoa. The usual number of irregular steamers ran during the sugar season. On 24th November 1893, the first steamer of the Canadian-Australian Line called at Suva, and the steamers of this Line have called regularly since that date on both the outward and the homeward trip. It is hoped that this company will become a permanent institution, an end to which the Government of the Colony will contribute as far as lies in its power. The great advantage derived by the Colony is that through this line the Colony is brought within thirty days journey of London, and is placed on the highway of nations instead of being, as it has ever hitherto been, in point of accessibility, the most distant of Her Majesty's Possessions.

19. GENERAL.

The Native market erected in Suva last year was used during 1893 by 4,191 Native vendors, who disposed of produce to the value of 1,658*l*.

Trade and communication was considerably hampered owing to the unfortunate necessity for enforcing quarantine during a great part of the year 1893, in consequence of the prevalence of measles in the Australian Colonies and New Zealand and in certain of the neighbouring groups of Islands.

The actual cost of maintaining quarantine amounted to 619*l.* but this sum is much less than the loss caused by disarranging the running of steamers and otherwise affecting trade for the worse. The disease was three times brought to the Colony by vessels, but was in each case detained in quarantine, and did not spread to the Native community.

It is some ten years since a previous epidemic necessitated similar precautions, and it is expected that the late epidemic will in all probability ensure a similar period of immunity.

(Signed) J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 153.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 127.)

Preſented to both Houſes of Parliament by Command of Her Majeſty.
February 1896.

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1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
118	Falkland Islands - - - - - -	1893
119	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
120	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
121	Strait Settlements - - - - -	"
122	Labuan - - - - - -	"
123	Basutoland - - - - - -	1893–94
124	St. Lucia - - - - - -	1893
125	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
126	Ceylon - - - - - -	"
127	Fiji - - - - - -	"
128	Grenada - - - - - -	"
129	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
130	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1893–94
131	British New Guinea - - - -	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos - - - - - -	1893
133	British Guiana - - - - -	1893–94
134	Jamaica - - - - - -	"
135	Newfoundland - - - - -	1893
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137	Zululand - - - - - -	1894
138	Bermuda - - - - - -	"
139	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
140	Barbados - - - - - -	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
142	Malta - - - - - -	"
143	Gambia - - - - - -	"
144	Windward Islands - - - - -	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
146	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
147	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
148	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
149	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
150	Lagos - - - - - -	"
151	Seychelles - - - - - -	"
152	Basutoland - - - - - -	1894–95

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration.

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[For Report for 1893 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 127.]

Acting Governor Berkeley to Mr. Chamberlain.
(Received September 24, 1895.)

Government House, Suva,
July 23, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1894, together with a report thereon by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
H. S. Berkeley.

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1. Revenue.

The Colonial revenue for the year 1894 was greater than that of any year since 1884. It amounted to 80,053*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.*, exceeding the estimate by 6,052*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* and the revenue of the previous year by 3,279*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

The receipts under each head of revenue in the past two years have been as shown hereunder :—

Head of Revenue.	1894.			1893.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Customs - - - - -	37,677	6	4	36,638	15	1
2. Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues	4,753	18	2	4,373	11	7
3. Native taxes - - - - -	18,678	14	0	17,436	11	0
4. Licenses, excise, and internal revenue -	8,200	0	11	7,223	2	1
5. Fees of court or office, payments for specific services, and reimbursements in aid.	7,057	12	9	6,639	3	6
6. Post office - - - - -	1,867	12	7	1,915	3	11
7. Rent of Government property - -	399	17	9	710	16	4
8. Interest - - - - -	18	6	9	7	13	9
9. Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,129	4	5	1,550	4	10
10. Land sales - - - - -	271	5	4	279	0	6
Total - - - - -	80,053	19	0	76,774	2	7

The principal increase in the receipts of the year 1894 occurs under the head of Customs, Native Taxes, and Internal Revenue, viz., fines, water rates, and stamp duty.

The receipts derivable from taxation, consisting of Customs duties, native taxes, license fees, and stamp duties, amounted in 1894 to 62,041*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, or 77·5 per cent. of the whole revenue, as compared with 59,294*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, or 77·2 per cent. of the revenue

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of 1893. The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during the past four years and the proportion which these amounts bear to (1) the total value of imports and (2) the total value of dutiable imports, are shown in the following statement :—

Year.	Customs Duties levied.	Proportion to	
		Total Value of Imports.	Value of dutiable Imports.
	£ s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1891 - - -	31,265 16 4	12·4	19·60
1892 - - -	32,424 8 11	12·8	19·93
1893 - - -	36,638 7 9	13·3	21·26
1894 - - -	37,674 16 7	13·2	20·91

There has been no alteration in the Customs tariff during those years.

2. EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the year amounted to 72,203*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, being less than the revenue by 7,850*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* and less than the normal expenditure of the previous year by 2,340*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* A few extraordinary items of expenditure which were not contemplated on the estimate were met. The principal of these were :—

	£ s. d.
(1.) Erection of lighthouse on Wailagilala Island to assist the vessels of the Canadian-Australian S.S. Co.	539 7 0
(2.) Subsidy to the Canadian-Australian S.S. Co. from 21st July to 31st December.	669 7 1
(3.) Purchase of rights in the foreshore of Suva Lands.	200 0 0

The revenue and expenditure of the past five years is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1890 - - -	66,817 5 1	60,826 6 6	5,990 18 7
1891 - -	71,249 18 11	67,819 17 7	3,430 1 4
1892 - - -	71,552 15 2	Ordinary. 67,651 12 1	3,901 3 1
1893 - - -	71,774 2 7	74,543 17 10	2,230 4 9
		Total. 85,981 15 1	9,207 12 6*
1894 - - -	80,053 19 0	72,203 15 4	7,850 3 8

* Deficit owing to extraordinary expenditure.

3. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND PUBLIC DEBT.

The year began with a floating liability of 2,001*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and the following items of public debt, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Public debt under debenture - -	126,600	0	0
Public debt due to Imperial Government.	113,081	18	8
Total - - -	239,681	18	8

The floating liability was extinguished during the year and its place taken by an asset of 5,911*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, and at 31st December 1894 the public debt stood as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Public debt under debenture - -	124,000	0	0
Public debt due to Imperial Government.	100,677	7	0
Total - - -	224,677	7	0

The Imperial Government remitted the claim made by them in respect of expenses incurred in connection with the settlement of the German land claims, amounting to 11,364*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* The amount of this remission, together with the statutory payments make up the sum of 15,004*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* by which the public debt of the Colony was reduced during the year.

The public debt of the Colony was equal to 1*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* per head of the population at 31st December 1894.

4. MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue and expenditure of the two municipalities in the Colony were:—

—	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Suva - - - - - -	1,491	8	7	1,479	3	1
Levuka - - - -	961	1	10	977	2	2
Total - - -	2,452	10	5	2,456	5	3

5. Public Works.

The expenditure on public works, exclusive of establishments, during the year was appropriated under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Constructing and repairing roads -	673	19	3
Constructing and repairing wharfs -	938	1	6
Repairs and additions to Government buildings.	3,743	17	9
Repairs and extension to water supply, Suva and Levuka.	294	12	11
Botanic Station - - -	121	17	7
Total - - -	5,772	9	0

6. Legislation.

The only substantive laws passed during the year, beyond the Appropriate Ordinances, were:—

Ordinance No. II.—" Regarding Volunteer Fire Brigades, and " to make provision for the Protection of Life and Property " from Fire."

Ordinance No. III.—" To regulate fishing on the Reefs and in " the Tidal Waters of the Colony." This law restricts the right to fish on tribal fishing grounds to the members of each tribe and to such other persons as may obtain a license (without fee) from the Native Commissioner. The public still retain the right of fishing with hook and line or with fishtraps between any reefs or in any tidal river.

Ordinance No. V.—" To authorise the Reception and Detention " in the Colony of certain persons when brought there by " Her Majesty's Naval Officers." This enactment is meant to facilitate the removal from Pacific Islands not within Her Majesty's dominion or the jurisdiction of any civilised powers of Natives who have been guilty of crimes, outrages, or disorders. Such people when brought to the Colony will be detained in custody or under police supervision.

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7. POPULATION.

The estimated population at 31st December 1894 was—

Class of Population.	Whites.		Coloured.		Total.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
Europeans	1,726	940	—	—	2,666		192	—
Half-castes	—	—	577	590	1,167		42	—
Indians	—	—	6,162	2,968	9,130		—	45
Polynesians	—	—	1,887	346	2,233		—	180
Rotumans	—	—	981	1,132	2,113		—	12
Fijians	—	—	55,332	48,418	103,750		—	1,112
Others	—	—	494	314	808		270	—

The births, deaths, and marriages and the respective rates per mille were :—

Class of Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Marriage-rate.
Europeans	70	31	33	26·25	11·62	12·37
Half-castes	57	14	9	48·84	11·99	7·71
Indians	276	294	136	30·23	32·20	14·89
Polynesians	16	54	15	7·16	24·17	6·71
Rotumans	74	86	10	35·02	40·70	4·73
Fijians	3,912	4,620	995	37·70	44·53	9·59
Others	—	52	—	—	64·35	—

8. ECCLESIASTICAL.

The following returns are furnished by the religious missions at work in the Colony. The figures for the previous year are added :—

Wesleyan Mission.

—	1894.	1893.
Churches	941	849
Other preaching places	379	475
European missionaries	10	11
Native ministers	65	69
Catechists	58	52
Teachers	1,110	1,117
Local preachers	2,018	2,062
Class leaders	4,636	3,680
Church members (English and Native)	31,057	30,586
On trial for membership	4,773	5,276
Communicants	22	17

Wesleyan Mission—continued.

—	1894.	1893.
Catechumens	10,450	7,417
Day schools	1,942	1,894
Day school scholars	36,158	37,051
Day school teachers	2,382	2,381
Sabbath schools	1,665	1,672
Sabbath school scholars	36,709	36,819
Sabbath school teachers	2,569	2,435
Adherents	98,297	98,959

Roman Catholic Mission.

European missionaries	26	23
Churches and chapels	83	81
Training institutions (European)	1	1
Traning institutions (Native)	3	3
Native teachers	187	182
European sisters	22	20
Adherents	about 9,580	about 9,700
Schools for Natives	143	145
Schools for Europeans	3	3
Native scholars	2,010	1,980
European scholars	132	124
European teachers	6	3

9. EDUCATION.

The revenue and expenditure of the two school boards during the year 1894 were:—

—	Revenue. £ s. d.	Expenditure. £ s. d.
Suva School Board	679 1 6	813 11 0
Levuka School Board	517 14 9	519 7 3

Government grants, amounting to 632*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, were received by those boards in 1894. The number on the roll in the board schools was 205; the average attendance, 168.

In the three Roman Catholic schools there was an average attendance of 112 with a roll of 160 pupils.

Seventy-three native youths were in residence at the Government technical school. A good deal of the time was occupied during the year in removing the school from the Island of Vanua Levu to a site near Suva, whither the buildings have been transported and re-erected by the pupils.

The education of the native population is in the hands of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions, from whom the following returns are received:—

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Average Attendance.
Wesleyan - - - -	1,942	36,158
Roman Catholic - - -	143	2,010
Total - - - -	2,085	38,168

10. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the past four years is shown in the following statement. The figures do not include bullion and specie:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1891 - -	253,049	474,334	727,382
1892 - -	253,586	434,791	688,377
1893 - -	276,398	355,632	632,030
1894 - -	285,981	581,652	867,633

The value of the total trade of the year 1894 is greater than that of any other year of the Colony's history. It exceeds that of the previous year by 235,603*l.*, and that of the year 1883—the highest point previously touched—by 65,040*l.*

The total trade of the Colony during the year 1894 was divided as follows:—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade	Per-centage of Total Trade.
	£	£	£	
New South Wales -	203,074	46,659	249,733	28·783
Victoria - - -	8,570	130,829	139,399	16·066
New Zealand - -	49,249	339,329	388,578	44·786
Tasmania - -	8	—	8	·0009
Queensland - -	2,120	—	2,120	·244
Total Australasian Colonies -	263,022	516,817	779,838	89·8799
Azores - - -	—	5,724	5,724	·659
Canada - - -	800	590	1,390	·160
Ellice Group - -	1,860	4	1,864	·214
France - - -	—	6,587	6,587	·759
Futuna - - -	1,153	14	1,167	·134
Hawaiian Islands -	125	52	177	·020

Trade of the Colony—*continued.*

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.	Per-centage of Total Trade.
	£	£	£	
India - - -	6,748	—	6,748	·777
Japan - - -	846	—	846	·097
New Caledonia - -	787	—	787	·090
Portugal - - -	—	28,861	28,861	3·326
Russia - - -	—	8,802	8,802	1·014
Samoa - - -	4,576	146	4,721	·545
Solomon Islands - -	—	120	120	·0149
Spain - - -	—	3,027	3,027	·360
Tonga - - -	2	67	69	·008
United Kingdom - -	—	10,809	10,809	1·245
United States - -	2,145	—	2,145	·247
Wallis Island - -	3,918	32	3,950	·455
Total - -	285,981	581,652	867,633	—

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that 89·88 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony was with the Australasian Colonies. The bulk of the imports are received from New South Wales. These imports include British goods which, except when a vessel from the United Kingdom happens to visit the Colony, are imported through one or other of the Australasian Colonies, but principally through New South Wales.

The principal imports consist of drapery (52,606*l.*), machinery (23,264*l.*), hardware (15,808*l.*), coal (15,579*l.*), breadstuffs (15,186*l.*), meats (13,716*l.*), rice (10,195*l.*), oils (6,197*l.*), produce (6,699*l.*), timber (5.958*l.*), oats (5,170*l.*), live stock (7,754*l.*), iron (5,082*l.*), galvanized iron and goods (4,940*l.*), bags and sugar mats (6,518*l.*), leatherware (3,432*l.*), boots and shoes (3,841*l.*), glassware and crockery (3,630*l.*), pickles and oilstores (3,359*l.*), stationery (3,180*l.*), spirits (3,230*l.*).

The three principal Colonial products are sugar, fruit, and copra. The exports of these products during the past four years is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Sugar.		Fruit.	Copra (Fijian only).	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1891 - - -	20,471	327,526	61,573	5,019	46,431
1892 - - -	18,883	302,133	62,564	5,901	49,422
1893 - - -	15,389	246,231	36,599	4,790	42,235
1894 - - -	27,265	436,245	49,115	5,833	57,261

The export of sugar was greater in 1894 than in any previous year. In 1893 fruit receded from the second place to the third, and still retains that position, although the export has improved. The diminution is owing to competition from Queensland, bad markets in Australia, and the prevalence of a disease among the plants in the Colony. There are prospects, however, of a fresh start being made in this industry; but the exports for the year 1895 will be very low owing to the effects of the storm on 7th January.

The export of copra in 1894 was well up to the average.

The next export in importance at the present time is Colonial distilled spirits, of which 106,920 gallons were exported in 1893, and 133,971 gallons in 1894, valued at 13,365*l.* and 16,746*l.* respectively.

The other principal items of export in 1894 consisted of :—

Cocoanuts, 9,984 sacks - -	valued at 2,496
Peanuts, 130 tons - -	„ 2,435
Wool, 12½ tons - - -	„ 1,161
Beche-de-mer, $16\frac{3}{20}$ tons - -	„ 808
Desiccated cocoanut, $14\frac{1}{5}$ tons -	„ 801
Cotton, $19\frac{6}{20}$ tons- - -	„ 741

Minor exports consist of arrowroot, cotton seed, ginger, angora, hair, herbs, hides, mats molasses, pearlshell, rice, sandal-wood, turtle shell, tea (205*l.*) tobacco, turtles, vanilla, yams, yagona (*Macro piper methysticum*).

The prevailing tendency appears to be in the direction of concentrating attention on the major products—principally sugar—to the exclusion of the minor items.

The total value of the minor products exported during the past four years is—

	£
1891 - - -	21,746
1892 - - -	20,352
1893 - - -	15,887
1894 - - -	11,513

These figures show a distinct falling off. This is possibly due to the belief that in order to be remunerative, tropical products must be cultivated on a large scale.

11. NAVIGATION.

The number and tonnage of merchant vessels entered at the ports of entry during each of the past four years are shown hereunder viz. :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1891 - - - - -	68	57,859	33	11,417	101	69,276
1892 - - - - -	63	55,307	28	16,137	91	69,444
1893 - - - - -	71	64,710	21	10,721	92	75,431
1894 - - - - -	96	115,476	39	13,186	135	128,662

The increase in the number and tonnage of steamers is due mainly to the fact that steamers of the Canadian-Australian line have called regularly at Suva throughout the year.

The nationality of the vessels visiting the Colony is shown in the following table:—

Nationality.	1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British - -	88	62,873	78	62,498	79	68,421	124	120,716
American - -	5	1,039	3	1,368	2	429	4	3,255
Danish - -	—	—	1	474	—	—	1	613
German - -	2	1,546	2	1,044	3	2,002	—	—
Italian - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	879
Japanese - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,169
Norwegian - -	6	3,818	5	3,334	5	3,174	3	1,971
Tongan - -	—	—	1	53	1	59	1	59
Nicaraguan -	—	—	1	673	2	1,346	—	—
Total - -	101	69,276	91	69,444	92	75,431	135	128,662

The interinsular trade of the Colony is conducted by a subsidized steamer and by small sailing vessels.

The number and tonnage of such vessels holding seagoing certificates from the Fiji Marine Board during the year 1894 was:—

——	No.	Tons.
European owned vessels - - -	55	749
Native owned vessels - - -	141	1,046
Total - - - -	196	1,795

12. LAND AND AGRICULTURE.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920 acres. The acreage granted to Europeans is 422,998, leaving 4,530,922 acres ungranted. The area estimated to be under cultivation by Europeans is 41,031.

This area is under crop as follows:—

	Acres.
Peanuts - - - -	153
Bananas - - - -	1,401
Pineapples - - - -	129
Beans - - - -	17
Cocoanuts - - - -	18,603
Maize - - - -	299

Land and Agriculture—*continued.*

	Acres.
Sugar-cane - - - -	19,382
Tobacco - - - -	49
Rice - - - -	78
Limes - - - -	44
Yams - - - -	138
Tea - - - -	410
Sisal hemp - - - -	160
Potatoes, kumalas, &c. - -	55
Other produce - - -	113
Total - - - -	41,031

The area under cocoanuts and sugar-cane show an increase. The areas under the other products appear to have diminished.

The livestock owned by Europeans is returned as follows:—

Horses - - - -	1,538
Cattle - - - -	9,386
Sheep - - - -	4,130
Goats - - - -	2,680

13. FACTORIES.

The manufactories of the Colony are reputed to consist of nine sugar mills with a nominal daily out-put of 123 tons of dried sugar two tea factories, two desiccated cocoanut factories, and 14 ship-building yards.

14. HOSPITAL.

Eight hundred and seventy-one cases were admitted to the colonial hospital during the year. 919 cases were treated of which 527 were discharged cured, 258 relieved and 20 not improved. The deaths were 52 in number, equal to 5·65 per cent. of the cases.

Of these cases 32 were Europeans, of whom five died, two from old age, one from sarcoma of brain, one from meningitis, and one from phthisis.

15. METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall of the year at Suva amounted to 111·80 inches, a few inches over the average of the past six years.

The absolute maximum temperature registered at Suva was 93° Fahr. on 26th February and 5th March. The absolute minimum was 59° Fahr. on 25th June.

The mean minimum temperature for the year was 72° Fahr. the mean maximum 84° Fahr.

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16. COMMUNICATION.

During the year there was steam communication with Sydney three times a month, with Melbourne once, with Auckland (direct) once, and during a portion of the year once a month *viâ* Tonga and Samoa, and with Vancouver, B.C. once monthly. The usual number of irregular steamers also ran during the sugar season.

17. POSTAL.

The following statement exhibits the estimated number of letters dealt with by the Post Office during the year 1894:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters	229,625	8,827	8,746	54,935	46,901	349,034
Post-cards	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newspapers	144,835	35,401	2,569	91,844	7,775	282,424
Book packets, samples, and circulars.	19,803	1,348	636	6,653	2,453	30,893
Parcels	—	291	92	—	—	383
Telegrams	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
(Including registered	5,015	4,838).

18. GENERAL.

A lighthouse was built on the Island of Wailagilala (latitude 16° 45′, longitude 179° 6′, west), from which a fixed white light was displayed after 29th March. This light was erected for the convenience principally of the Canadian-Australian line of steamers, and enables vessels to enter or leave the Group by the Nanuku passage at night. The light is exhibited from an open wooden frame structure, the height of which is 102 feet from base to vane. The centre of the lantern is 97 feet 6 inches above high water, and the light may be seen for about 16 miles from a ship's deck.

In May, an intertribal disturbance occurred among the mountain towns of the Island of Vanua Levu, which was suppressed by His Excellency the Governor with the armed native constabulary aided by volunteers from the chief town of the province in which the trouble took place.

The disturbers of the peace sustained a loss of some 10 lives. There was no loss of life on the side of the Government party.

The leaders in this trouble were subsequently captured, tried before the Supreme Court at Suva, and sentenced. Two of them ultimately suffered the extreme penalty of the law, and the others were sent to prison.

This is the only disturbance with loss of life that has occurred during the past 18 years. Full details of the matter are published in Blue-Book No. C. 7679.

J. Stewart,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 203.

FIJI.

REPORT ON TRADE FOR 1896.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1897.

LONDON:
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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
175	Falkland Islands - - - - -	1895
176	St. Helena - - - - -	"
177	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
178	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
179	Windward Islands - - - -	"
180	Labuan - - - - - -	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
182	Seychelles - - - - -	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues- - - -	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras - - - -	1895
185	Lagos - - - - - -	"
186	Basutoland - - - - -	1895-6
187	Ceylon - - - - - -	1895
188	British Guiana - - - - -	1895-6
189	Gold Coast - - - - -	1895
190	Jamaica - - - - - -	1895-6
191	Canada - - - - - -	1895
192	Bermuda - - - - - -	1896
193	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
194	Zululand - - - - - -	"
195	Gambia - - - - - -	"
196	Malta - - - - - -	"
197	British New Guinea - - - -	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands - - -	1896
199	Barbados - - - - - -	1896
200	Leeward Islands - - - - -	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	1896
202	Gibraltar - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration
5	Bahamas- - -	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong - -	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland - -	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific - -	Solomon Islands.

No. 203.

Fiji. 1896

FIJI.—TRADE OF 1896.

Acting-Governor Sir H. S. Berkeley to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House,
Suva, June 14, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report on the Trade and Commerce and Shipping of the Colony of Fiji for the year 1896. The returns on which the report is based will be embodied in the Blue Book for the current year, but, owing to unavoidable circumstances, the issue of that return is delayed, and I therefore forward the report.

I have, &c.,

H. S. BERKELEY.

REPORT ON THE TRADE AND COMMERCE AND SHIPPING OF THE COLONY OF FIJI FOR THE YEAR 1896.

The Honourable the Receiver-General to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Statistical Returns of the Trade and Commerce of the Colony for the years 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896.

Total Trade of the Colony.

2. The value of the Imports, Exports, and Total Trade of the Colony during the four years under review is shown in the

following statement. The figures given do not in their reference include Bullion and Specie.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1893	276,398	355,632	632,030
1894	285,981	581,652	867,633
1895	241,759	332,209	573,968
1896	242,492	435,342	677,834

3. The value of the Total Trade of the year 1894 is greater than that of any other year of the Colony's history. In 1896 it is greater than that of the previous year by £103,866.

4. The proportion which the Imports, Exports and Total Trade of the other three years bear to those of the year 1896, is as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
1893	113·1	81·7	93·2
1894	117·9	133·6	128
1895	99·7	76·3	84·7
1896	100	100	100

5. The proportion which the Imports and Exports respectively of each year of the series bear to the Total Trade of that year is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Percentage of Total Trade.	Percentage of Total Trade.
1893	43·73	56·27
1894	32·96	67·04
1895	42·12	57·88
1896	35·77	64·23

6. The Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.			Exports.			Total.			Percentage of Total Trade.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
New South Wales	184,593	0	7	48,156	7	7	232,749	8	2	34·337
Victoria	—			84,036	6	9	84,036	6	9	12·397
New Zealand	35,259	6	6	269,021	13	0	304,280	19	6	44·891
South Australia	—			12	0	0	12	0	0	·002
Total, Australasian Colonies	219,852	7	1	401,226	7	4	621,078	14	5	91·627
Azores	—			24,751	10	0	24,751	10	0	3·652
Canada	3,565	15	8	275	0	0	3.840	15	8	·566
Futuna	1,543	10	0	—			1,543	10	0	·228
Guam	—			4,488	0	0	4,488	0	0	·662
Hawaiian Islands	159	11	0	79	4	0	238	15	0	·035
India	8,367	1	2	—			8,367	1	2	1·234
New Hebrides	29	0	0	—			29	0	0	·004
Samoa	11	12	1	95	7	10	106	19	11	·016
Tonga	418	12	8	4,397	1	0	4,815	13	8	·710
United States	2,281	19	9	—			2,281	19	9	·337
Wallis Island	3,841	0	11	25	5	9	3,866	6	8	·570
Line Islands	9	10	4	4	9	1	13	19	5	·002
New Caledonia	401	11	10	—			401	11	10	·059
Queensland	2,010	10	10	—			2,010	10	10	·298
	242,492	3	4	435,342	5	0	677,834	8	4	—

7. The foregoing statement shows that while the total trade with the Australasian Colonies, amounting to £621,078, formed 91·6 per cent. of the Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896, the Imports from the Australasian Colonies (£219,852) formed 90·6 per cent of the total Imports, and the Exports to the Australasian Colonies (£401,226) formed 92·2 per cent. of the total Exports.

8. The Imports from places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only £22,640 or 9 per cent. of the whole, and of that amount £5,212 represents produce in transit for exportation. It may thus be said that only 7·1 per cent. of the Imports for use in the Colony were obtained from beyond the Australasian Colonies.

9. The Exports to places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only 7·8 per cent. of the total Exports, or £34,116 ; of this amount £29,240 represents the export of Copra to Europe, leaving only £4,876 as the value of exports other than Copra shipped to places beyond the Australasian Colonies during the year.

10. As regards the division of trade among the Australasian Colonies, it appears that of the total Imports therefrom 83·962 per cent. came from New South Wales, and 16·038 per cent. from New Zealand. Of the Exports thereto 67·50 per cent. were sent to New Zealand, 20·945 per cent. to Victoria, 12·002 per cent. to New South Wales, and ·003 per cent. to South Australia. Fiji thus imported most from New South Wales among the Australasian Colonies in 1896. The value of exports to the several colonies is largely dependent on the destination of the sugar consignments.

The export of Sugar during the year to the respective colonies was—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.	Proportion.
	Tons.	£	
New South Wales	101⅓	1,218	·362
New Zealand	21,018	251,954	74·782
Victoria	6,214	83,746	24·856

11. The division of the Trade between the two ports of Entry in the Colony is exhibited in the following statement :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Suva—				
Value of Imports for use in the Colony ..	£ 190,820	£ 194,518	£ 157,541	£ 172,876
Do. imported for Exportation ..	—	—	319	370
Do. Total	190,820	194,518	157,860	173,246
Value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	301,835	511,694	259,135	404,174
Do. imported for Exportation ..	—	—	319	370
Do. Total	301,835	511,694	259,454	404,544
Total Trade	492,655	706,212	417,314	577,790
Levuka—				
Value of Imports for use in the Colony ..	84,264	80,679	69,860	64,404
Do. imported for Exportation ..	1,314	10,784	14,039	4,842
Do. Total	85,578	91,463	83,899	69,246
Value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	52,483	59,174	58,716	25,956
Do. imported for Exportation ..	1,314	10,784	14,039	4,842
Do. Total	53,797	69,958	72,755	30,798
Total Trade	139,375	161,421	156,654	100,044

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12. The proportions of the Total Trade thus credited to each Port are—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Suva	77·9	81·4	72·71	85·24
Levuka	22·1	18·6	27·29	14·76

13. If the value of Produce Imported for Exportation and of Imported Produce Exported be left out of account the proportions of the Total Trade at each Port would be—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Suva	78·3	83·5	76·42	86·46
Levuka	21·7	16·5	23·58	13·54

Imports.

14. The Imports of the four years under review have been obtained from the various countries, and to the amounts, shown in the subjoined statement.

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	194,174	203,074	178,919	184,593
Victoria	14,719	8,570	4,263	—
New Zealand	41,016	49,249	36,964	35,259
Tasmania	—	8	—	—
Queensland	—	2,120	—	2,010
Total Australasian Colonies	249,909	263,021	220,146	221,862
India	2,570	6,748	1,345	8,367
United Kingdom	18,479	—	—	—
United States	3,743	2,145	3,699	2,282
Canada	—	800	984	3,566
Japan	—	846		—
Hawaii	—	125	—	160
Carried forward ...	274,701	273,685	226,174	236,237

Country.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	274,701	273,685	226,174	236,237
Samoa	—	4,576	13	12
Tonga	12	2	10,760	419
Ellice Group	—	1,860	539	—
Futuna	—	1,153	1,095	1,543
Wallis Island	1,355	3,918	2,563	3,841
New Caledonia	314	787	—	401
New Hebrides	18	—	—	29
Noumea	—	—	448	—
Solomon Islands	—	—	139	—
Norfolk Island...	—	—	28	—
Line Islands	—	—	—	10
Total	276,400	285,981	241,759	242,492

15. The value of Imports, compared with 1895, shows a slight increase.

But one of the principal items of fluctuation in the value of Imports is the amount of produce imported for exportation.

During the four years under review the value of produce imported for exportation has been as follows :—

		£	s.	d.
1893	... ...	1,313	13	8
1894	... ...	10,783	12	2
1895	... ...	14,357	17	5
1896	... ...	5,211	17	6

If this fluctuating element be left out of consideration the Imports for the four years would compare thus :—

Year.	Value of Imports.	Proportion per centum to Imports of 1896.
	£	
1893	275,085	115·83
1894	275,197	115·88
1895	227,401	95·75
1896	237,492	100·00

The Imports of the year 1896 for use in the Colony thus show an increase of 4·25 compared with those of 1895.

16. The division of Imports between goods subject to Custom duties and goods that are admitted free of duty is given hereunder, viz.,—

Year.	Dutiable Imports.			Free Imports.			Total Value.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1893	172,363	10	0	104,034	16	7	276,398	6	7
1894	179,657	12	7	106,323	0	9	285,980	13	4
1895	161,881	17	5	79,877	6	3	241,759	3	8
1896	129,234	11	7	113,257	11	9	242,492	3	4

The disturbing element of produce imported for exportation (which is entirely duty free) enters also into the foregoing figures, and, with the view of arriving at a fairer comparison, the following statement is presented which excludes the value of such produce :—

Year.	Dutiable Imports.			Free Imports (excluding Produce Imported for Exportation).			Total Value.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1893	172,363	10	0	102,721	2	11	275,084	12	11
1894	179,657	12	7	95,539	8	7	275,197	1	2
1895	161,881	17	5	65,519	8	10	227,401	6	3
1896	129,234	11	7	108,045	14	3	237,280	5	10

17. The principal items of Import with their values for each of the four years are shown in the subjoined table :—

Nature of Import.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and Hams	1,456	1,578	1,327	1,193
2. Bags and Sugar-mats	4,326	6,518	5,204	5,499
3. Beer...	3,267	2,754	3,043	2,865
4. Books	847	1,251	1,442	1,243
5. Boots and Shoes	3,410	3,841	3,451	4,002
6. Breadstuffs and Biscuits... ...	19,139	15,186	16,029	21,564
7. Butter	2,500	2,569	2,973	2,660
8. Coals	9,604	15,579	12,028	13,527
9. Cordage	1,859	1,507	1,279	1,199
10. Cutlery	1,939	2,466	2,512	1,744

Name of Import.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
11. Drapery	47,121	52,606	48,906	47,978
12. Drugs	2,044	2,679	2,940	2,787
13. Fish	2,191	2,557	1,829	2,103
14. Furniture	1,508	1,762	1,414	1,361
15. Galvanised Iron and Goods ...	5,717	4,940	5,728	4,886
16. Glassware and Crockery... ...	2,955	3,630	2,712	2,189
17. Hardware	11,247	15,808	9,543	10,716
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	4,171	5,082	2,678	2,993
19. Jewellery	1,063	1,764	1,373	1,409
20. Leatherware	2,766	3,432	1,656	1,872
21. Live Stock	14,466	7,754	3,907	6,439
22. Machinery	22,781	23,264	5,368	2,498
23. Machinery—Agricultural ...	4,287	1,591	1,283	1,560
24. Manure	6,263	2,791	99	2,261
25. Meats	12,892	13,716	11,729	11,635
26. Oils...	5,281	6,197	4,822	6,239
27. Oats...	5,611	5,170	2,107	645
28. Pickles and Oilstores	2,853	3,359	3,127	3,579
29. Paints	1,704	1,535	1,645	1,646
30. Produce	5,096	6,699	6,188	8,642
31. Rice...	12,396	10,195	9,081	9,661
32. Ship Chandlery	2,458	1.640	1,592	1,598
33. Soap	2,058	2,331	1,678	877
34. Spirits	3,039	3,230	3,964	3,409
35. Stationery	2,640	3,180	2,684	2,939
36. Sugar	2,262	968	3,895	4,405
37. Timber	9,089	5,958	6,698	6,400
38. Tobacco	1,646	1,669	1,564	1,597
39. Vegetables and Green Fruit ...	2,858	2,413	2,635	3,180
40. Wines	1,238	1,026	1,845	1,505
41. Woodenware	1,546	1,417	1,255	1,061

FIJI. 1896.

The principal fluctuations during the year 1896 consist of increases under the heads of Breadstuffs and Biscuits, Coals, Hardware, Live Stock, Manure, Oils, and Produce, and decreases under Machinery, Oats, and Soap.

18. The amount of Customs duties levied on Imports during the four years, and the proportion which the amounts levied bear to—(1) the total value of Imports, and to (2) the total value of Dutiable Imports, are as follows :—

Year.	Customs Duty levied.			Proportion to	
				Total Value of Imports.	Value of Dutiable Imports.
	£	*s.*	*d.*		
1893	36,638	7	9	13·3	21·26
1894	37,674	16	7	13·2	20·91
1895	35,196	19	3	14·6	21·74
1896	34,219	8	8	14·1	26·4

Exports.

19. The Exports for the four years under review have been divided among the countries and in the amounts shown hereunder :—

Country.	1893.			1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	63,234	7	4	46,658	16	1	26,256	1	1	48,156	7	7
Victoria	65,145	10	9	130,828	10	4	42,421	3	10	84,036	6	9
New Zealand	189,621	3	3	339,328	17	1	190,503	11	5	269,021	13	0
South Australia	—			—			—			12	0	0
Total, Australasian Colonies	318,001	1	4	516,816	3	6	259,180	16	4	401,226	7	4
Azores	—			5,724	2	0	30,002	13	0	24,751	10	0
Canada	—			590	9	3	99	6	0	275	0	0
Ellice Group	6	18	0	4	0	0	—			—		
France	—			6,586	19	8	—			—		
Futuna	10	12	0	14	0	0	6	0	0	—		
Guam	—			—			—			4,488	0	0
Hawaiian Islands	—			52	3	0	50	10	0	79	4	0
Italy	7,855	13	0	—			—			—		
Line Islands	—			—			—			4	9	1
New Caledonia	68	8	0	—			—			—		
New Hebrides	—			—			84	0	0	—		
Portugal	13,746	10	10	28,861	4	2	22,437	18	9	—		
Carried forward.. ..	339,689	3	2	558,649	1	7	311,861	4	1	430,824	10	5

Country.	1893.			1894.			1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward.. ..	339,689	3	2	558,649	1	7	311,861	4	1	430,824	10	5
Russia	5,934	2	6	8,801	12	6	—			—		
Samoa	54	15	6	145	11	10	62	12	6	95	7	10
Solomon Islands..	—			120	0	0	—			—		
Spain	—			3,027	7	4	20,270	6	2	—		
Tonga	129	14	2	67	8	0	5	18	0	4,397	1	0
United Kingdom	9,740	16	4	10,809	2	8	—			—		
Vancouver	79	8	8	—			—			—		
Wallis Island	3	13	2	32	3	0	8	15	3	25	5	9
Total	355,631	13	6	581,652	6	11	332,208	16	0	435,342	5	0

20. The Export trade shows a tendency to concentrate around the major products,—viz., Sugar, Fruit and Copra,—although Fruit, which since 1887 had occupied the second place on the list of Exports, receded to the third place in 1893 and still retains that position.

When, however, the value of the few major exports are deducted from the value of total Exports, it is found that the export of minor products is a diminishing quantity.

This will be seen on reference to the following statement :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	354,318	570,869	317,851	430,130
Deduct Value of Sugar exported..	246,231	436,245	208,889	336,929
Value of remaining Exports	108,087	134,624	108,962	93,201
Deduct Value of Fruit exported..	36,599	49,115	20,987	18,490
Value of Exports except Sugar and Fruit	71,488	85,509	87,975	74,711
Deduct Value of Copra exported	42,236	57,261	79,726	48,950
Value of Exports except Sugar, Fruit, and Copra ..	29,252	28,248	8,249	25,761
Deduct Value of Colonial Distilled Spirits exported	13,365	16,746	—	10,163
Value of Exports other than Sugar, Fruit, Copra, and Rum	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598

From the foregoing statement it appears that after deducting the three principal items of Export, there is left only the sum of—

In 1893	... ...	£29,252
„ 1894	... ...	28,248
„ 1895	... ...	8,249
„ 1896	... ...	25,761

The apparent increase in 1893 and 1894 is due to the export on an extended scale of a new item—a by-product of the sugar industry—Colonial Distilled Spirit, the value of which rose from nil in 1892 to £13,365 in 1893 and £16,746 in 1894, leaving in these years, as the value of minor products exported, the amounts of—

In 1893	£15,887
„ 1894	11,502
„ 1895	8,249
„ 1896	15,598

21. Proceeding first to examine the position of the three principal products, it is found that the following figures represent the export of—

Sugar

during the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1893	15,389	246,231
1894	27,265	436,245
1895	23,210	208,889
1896	27,334	336,929

The Export of Sugar was greater in 1896 than in any of the years under consideration. The state of the sugar-market is unsatisfactory, and is likely to remain so while the conflict with bounty-fed beet-sugar continues. The area under sugar cane is, however, increasing. This industry can be profitably conducted on a large scale only.

Fruit.

22. The Export of Dried and Green Fruit has been as is shown hereunder,—

Year.	Total Value.	Fruits, Dried and Preserved.	Green Fruits.	
			Bananas.	Pine-apples and Bananas.
	£		Bunches.	Cases.
1893	36,599	3 qrs. 2 lbs.	348,599	17,421
1894	49,115	24 lbs.	390,746	33,014
1895	20,987	—	114,024	20,725
1896	18,490	28 lbs.	207,352	34,934

From these figures it appears that the fruit trade was, during the period under consideration, at its height in 1894 ; decreasing from £49,115 in that year to £20,987 in 1895 and £18,490 in 1896. Large areas are, however, being put under cultivation at

Sigatoka, Savusavu, Taviuni, and Viria, and a considerable export trade may be anticipated during 1897. The export to each of the colonies during the past four years is shown in the following statement :—

	1893	1894	1895	1896
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales... ...	17,070	23,064	5,052	7,097
New Zealand	18,169	22,710	15,349	11,359
Victoria	1,284	2,903	526	34
Vancouver	—	—	60	—

Copra.

23. The export of Copra during the past four years has been as follows. The export of Cocoanuts is not included.

Year.	Fijian Copra.	Copra Imported for Exportation.	Total Exports.	Value of Total Exports.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1893	4,790	149	4,939	43,549
1894	5,833	1,098¼	6,932	68,045
1895	9,244	1,665	10,909	94,084
1896	4,862	625	5,487	48,950

The quantity of Copra exported in 1896 was considerably below the average. Compared with 1895 the export was less by 5,422 tons, valued at £45,134. There were 1,080 tons of Copra awaiting shipment on 31st December, 1896.

The principal minor products (in the order of their volume in 1894) were—

Colonial Distilled Spirits.

24. This industry began only in 1893 in an extended form. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company ceased distilling in 1895, but resumed operations in 1896, when Spirits to the value of £10,163, was exported. The export during the four years was—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Gallons.	£
1893	106,920	13,365
1894	133,971	16,746
1895	—	—
1896	78,890	10,163

Cocoanuts.

25. For a number of years there has been an export of Cocoanuts in sacks (which may be estimated as each containing 90 cocoanuts) to the Australasian markets. The following figures give the particulars of the export during the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Sacks.	£
1893	5,369	1,342
1894	9,984	2,496
1895	3,849	962
1896	7,181	1,803

The export, which in 1895 had decreased to 3,849 sacks, appears to have somewhat revived during the year 1896.

Peanuts.

26. The export of Peanuts has increased considerably in 1896, being £2,026 greater than 1895.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1893	192	3,587
1894	130	2,435
1895	87	1,623
1896	191	3,649

Wool.

27. The export of Wool increased during 1894, but probably on account of the holding over of consignments from the previous year.

The exports were—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	4 tons 9 cwt.	417
1894	12 tons 9 cwt.	1,161
1895	6 tons 12 cwt.	524
1896	3 tons 18 cwt.	225

Bêche-de-mer.

28. The export was at its height, so far as recent years are concerned, in the year 1887, when 96 tons were exported, valued at £4,812. For each of the three succeeding years it stood at about sixty tons, but since that time it has diminished.

The export of the past four years has been—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	15 tons 19 cwt.	797
1894	16 tons 3 cwt.	808
1895	9 tons 15 cwt.	483
1896	10 tons 3 cwt.	378

Desiccated Cocoanuts.

29. The export of this product began in the year 1888, when some 8 tons 13 cwt. was exported It has fallen off in volume during past years, and disappears entirely from our lists in 1895 and 1896. The following figures represent the export of the past four years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	37 tons 17 cwt.	2,122
1894	14 tons 4 cwt.	801
1895	—	—
1896	—	—

Cotton (Kidney).

30. The cultivation of this product, which had practically died out, was revived in 1889 when some of the Natives were induced to grow Cotton. The export for 1896 is greater than 1895 by 30 tons valued at £1,086

The export of Ginned Cotton during the four years was :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
1893	40 tons 7 cwt.	2.260
1894	19 tons 6 cwt.	741
1895	4 tons 12 cwt.	546
1896	35 tons	1,632

There were about 22 tons Cotton in stock awaiting shipment on 31st December, 1896.

Maize.

31. Maize is occasionally exported, but it can only be done profitably when, owing to flood or drought, a scarcity occurs in the Australian Colonies. The export of the past four years has been :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Bushels.	£
1893	17,864	2,680
1894	1,000	125
1895	—	—
1896	2,568	300

There is, however, a large local consumption of Maize, amounting to probably over 20,000 bushels annually.

32. The minor exports comprised in the figures given above may be summarised as follows :—

Item.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Coccanuts (as detailed above)	1,342	2,496	962	1,803
Peanuts "	3,587	2,435	1,623	3.649
Wool "	417	1,161	524	225
Bêche-de-mer "	797	808	483	378
Desiccated Cocoanuts "	2,122	802	—	—
Cotton "	2,260	741	546	1,632
Maize "	2,680	125	—	300
Tobacco "	1	95	5	3,798
Total value of principal minor exports	13,206	8,663	4,143	11,785
The total value of minor exports was shown to be	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598
Which leaves the following sums as the value of subsidiary items of export ...	2,681	2,839	4,106	3,813

FIJI. 1896.

33. These are—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896
	£	£	£	£
Bark	—	—	—	39
Beans...	—	2	117	—
Bones...	6	—	25	—
Cigars	5	—	—	—
Cocoanut Husks	—	—	—	2
Cotton Seed	—	10	57	77
Curiosities	493	593	534	358
Exhibits	—	10	2	—
Fibre	1	—	2	—
Ginger	14	59	299	3
Hair—Angora	—	9	—	—
Herbs	2	3	—	—
Hides	664	700	927	280
Husks	—	—	1	—
Ivory Nuts	1	1	—	—
Mats	—	6	5	13
Molasses	140	53	468	157
Oil	—	—	2	—
Pearlshell	292	246	440	575
Plants and Seeds	120	149	105	6
Reeds	—	—	3	16
Rice	—	22	16	—
Sandalwood	53	64	8	3
Sennit	—	4	—	—
Shell—Turtle	568	509	603	1,022
Skins	1	1	14	31
Soap	—	—	—	9
Syrup...	—	—	225	272
Tea	253	205	79	542
Carried forward ...	2,613	2,646	3.934	3,415

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	2,613	2,646	3,934	3,415
Timber	2	—	6	18
Tobacco Seed	—	—	39	—
Turtles	60	25	5	55
Vanilla	—	43	37	325
Yams	6	124	85	10
Yaqona	—	1	—	—
	2,681	2,839	4,106	3,813

34. The foregoing somewhat lengthy list is more indicative of possibilities than of their fulfilment.

It may be pointed out that the export of Molasses fell off owing to the manufacture of Spirit. Molasses is also used as a fertiliser, and this use may prevent or reduce its export in the future.

There has never been any regular export of Tobacco. In 1891 a trial shipment of the common native leaf was made, but did not prove successful. The cultivation of the finer classes of Tobacco, to which attention is now being given in the Colony, may alter this state of affairs in future years.

The majority of these minor exports are of a more or less casual nature; but there are indications that some, such as Coffee and Rice, may increase in the near future; although in both cases there is a considerable local market which has first to be supplied.

Navigation.

35. The Number and Tonnage of merchant vessels entered at the two ports of entry in the Colony during each of the past four years are shown hereunder:—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total	
	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1893	71	64,710	21	10,721	92	75,431
1894	96	115 476	39	13,186	125	128,662
1895	121	108,006	21	10,527	142	118,533
1896	98	103,168	34	12,302	132	115,470

FIJI. 1896.

36. The number and tonnage of vessels entering at Suva and Levuka respectively during each of the past four years are as follows :—

	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Suva	81	71,666	110	123,711	120	110,911	116	112,131
Levuka ...	11	3,765	25	4,951	22	7,622	16	3,339

The intercolonial steamers, however, with rare exception, enter at Suva and proceed to Levuka under a coasting license. The foregoing figures therefore represent only the direct trade with Levuka in cases where it does not pass through Suva.

37. The Nationality of the vessels visiting the Colony is shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	79	68,421	124	120,716	127	108,970	121	110,179
American ...	2	429	4	3,255	4	1,563	4	1,179
Danish	—	—	1	613	—	—	—	—
German ...	3	2,002	—	—	—	—	1	324
Italian	—	—	1	879	—	—	—	—
Japanese ...	—	—	1	1,169	—	—	—	—
Norwegian ...	5	3,174	3	1,971	10	7,954	6	3,788
Tongan ...	1	59	1	59	1	46	—	—
Nicaraguan ...	2	1,346	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	92	75,431	135	128,662	142	118,533	132	115,470

38. The number and tonnage of local sailing vessels holding sea-going certificates from the Marine Board during the year 1896 was—

	No.		Tons.
European-owned Vessels	116	...	1,376
Native-owned Vessels	199	...	1,706
Total ...	315		3,082

I have, &c.,

HORACE G. C. EMBERSON,

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 217.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1897.

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1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
184	British Honduras - - - -	1895
185	Lagos - - - - - -	"
186	Basutoland - - - - -	1895-6
187	Ceylon - - - - - -	1895
188	British Guiana - - - - -	1895-6
189	Gold Coast - - - - -	1895
190	Jamaica - - - - - -	1895-6
191	Canada - - - - - -	1895
192	Bermuda - - - - - -	1896
193	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
194	Zululand - - - - - -	"
195	Gambia - - - - - -	"
196	Malta - - - - - -	"
197	British New Guinea - - - -	1895-6
198	Turks and Caicos Islands - - -	1896
199	Barbados - - - - -	"
200	Leeward Islands - - - - -	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	1896
202	Gibraltar - - - - -	"
203	Fiji (Trade) - - - - -	"
204	Straits Settlements - - - -	1895
205	Do. do. - - - - -	1896
206	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
207	British Honduras - - - -	"
208	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
209	Grenada - - - - -	"
210	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
211	St. Lucia - - - - -	"
212	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
213	St. Helena - - - - -	"
214	Seychelles - - - - -	"
215	Mauritius - - - - -	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands - -	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration.
5	Bahamas- - -	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong - -	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland - -	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific - -	Solomon Islands.

No. 217.

FIJI.

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva,
7th September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for 1896, and to enclose a copy of a report thereon prepared by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. James Stewart.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

The following Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1896 is respectfully submitted :—

(1). REVENUE.

The Revenue for the past two years has been as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1895	78,240	5	9
1896	73,868	18	9
Net Decrease 1896 ...	4,371	7	0

The principal decrease occurred on the Items of Customs £977 13*s*. 7*d*.; Native Taxes £1,797 11*s*. 6*d*.; Stamp Duties £460 14*s*. 2*d*.; Fees of Court £1,276 10*s*. 8*d*.

The decrease is mainly attributable to the interruption of trade consequent on the effects of the hurricane of January 1895.

Of the decrease in Customs Duties a sum of £488 12*s*. 7*d*. occurs under the head of Duty on Soap. This falling off is due to the establishment of two local soap manufactories, which has naturally reduced the quantity imported.

Another of the principal decreases in Customs duties occurs under the head of Timber. This is due to the fact that a large quantity of timber was imported in the year 1895 to meet the demands made necessary by the effects of the hurricane.

The following table shows the amount received under each of the heads mentioned during the past two years, with the proportion which each bears to the total revenue:—

—	1896.			Proportion to Total Revenue.	1895.			Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	
Customs ...	34,219	13	2	46·3	35,197	6	9	44·9
Native taxes...	17,986	6	10	24·3	19,783	18	4	25·2
Licenses ...	4,087	4	6	5.5	4,028	4	0	5·1
Stamp duty ...	913	9	6	1·2	1,374	3	8	1·7
Total ...	57,206	14	0	Total ...	60,383	12	9	

The proportion of revenue derived from these heads during the years in question is thus—

1895	77·1
1896	77·4

and is equal to 9*s*. 6*d*. per head of population. The revenue from other sources (amounting in the aggregate to £16,662 4*s*. 9*d*.) is equal to 2*s*. 9*d*. per head of population, the total revenue being thus 12*s*. 3*d*. per head of population for the year 1896.

The proportion which, during the past two years, the revenue from Customs Duties has borne to the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duty is levied), is—

1895 … … … …	15·4
1896 … … … …	14·4

The total amount contributed by the natives in payment of their taxes during the two years was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1895 … … … …	28,014	17	5
1896 … … … …	26,551	1	2

There was thus a refund made to them of the following amounts in respect of the years in question, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
1895 … … … …	8,230	19	1
1896 … … … …	8,564	14	4

(2). EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the years 1895 and 1896 amounted to the following sums, viz.—

	£	s.	d.
1895 … … … ..	76,204	3	11
1896 … … … …	73,099	3	1

The balance in favour of revenue was thus—

	£	s.	d.
for 1895 … … … …	2,036	1	10
„ 1896 … … … …	769	15	8

The expenditure of 1896 was lower than that of the previous year by £3,105 0*s*. 10*d*.

The expenditure of 1895 was swollen by the extraordinary items of £1,019 3*s*. 4*d*. spent in relieving natives whose crops had been destroyed by the hurricane, and £1,463 4*s*. 0*d*. spent in providing new engines for s.s. "Clyde"; and also by other expenses such as re-construction of Wailagilala Light-house necessitated by the effects of the cyclonic storm.

The division of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges for the two years is as follows :—

—	1895.			1896.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments …	37,221	7	1	38,648	8	2
Other Charges … …	38,516	4	5	33,515	14	11

The total expenditure of the Colony is equal per head of the population to the following sums :—

	s.	d.
1895	12	7
1896	12	1

The ratio which expenditure has borne to the value of exports in each of the two years has been as follows :—

1895	1 to 4·4
1896	1 to 5·9

(3). PUBLIC DEBT.

The Colonial Assets (beyond Public Debt) exceeded the Liabilities at 31st December 1896 by £8,368 5*s*. 8*d*.

The expenditure on Public Debt for 1896 was £9,283 10*s*. 1*d*.

The Debt was reduced by £3,140 5*s*. 1*d*. during the year, and at 31st December 1896 stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Under debenture	119,300	0	0
Due to Imperial Government ...	98,596	16	10
Total ...	£217,896	16	10

(4). LOCAL BOARDS.

The revenue and expenditure of the Municipal and School Boards in the Colony during the year 1896 were as follows :—

—	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Suva Town Board	1,680	1	3	1,505	10	1
Levuka Town Board ...	1,238	7	3	1,129	7	5
Suva School Board	718	14	0	678	9	9
Levuka School Board ...	552	1	0	566	16	4
Total	£4,189	3	6	£3,880	3	7

The Government's contribution to the municipalities was £250 and to the School Boards £712 18*s.* 6*d.* for the year.

(5). PENSIONS.

The Pension list was increased during the year by £252 12*s.* 8*d.*, and at the 31st December 1896 stood at £820 10*s.* 6*d.*

(6). POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Colony at 31st December 1896 was as follows :—

	No.
Europeans	3,292
Half-castes	1,201
Indians	10,433
Polynesians	2,310
Rotumans	2,156
Fijians	100,321
Others	787
Total ...	120,500

The density of population is about 15½ per square mile.

(7). RELIGIOUS MISSIONS.

The Statistics in respect of the year 1896, returned by the two Missions at work in the Colony, are as follows :—

Wesleyan Mission.

	No.
Churches	902
Other preaching places	391
European Missionaries	11
Native Ministers...	67
Catechists	60
Teachers	1,099
Local Preachers	2,051
Class Leaders	4,521
Church Members (English and Native) ...	30,812
On trial for Membership	4,291
Communicants	17
Catechumens	11,081
Day Schools	2,064

Wesleyan Mission—cont.

Day School Scholars	35,141
Day School Teachers	2,597
Sabbath Schools	1,640
Sabbath School Scholars	33,590
Sabbath School Teachers	2,631
Adherents	96,421

Roman Catholic Mission.

European Missionaries	31
Churches and Chapels	85
Training Institutions (European)	1
Training Institutions (Native)	3
Native Teachers	187
European Sisters	25
Adherents	9,437
Schools for Natives	141
Schools for Europeans	3
Native Scholars	2,009
European Scholars	179
European Teachers	7

(8). EDUCATION.

There are two European State Schools, and there are three English Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The aggregate average attendance at these five schools was 328·54.

The Native Technical School had 78 students in residence during the year.

The particulars regarding Native Mission Schools are given under the head of "Religious Missions."

(9). CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in British Sterling currency and in Imperial weights and measures. The estimated amount of coin in circulation is £96,000. The amount of paper money, £4,000.

(10). IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Total Trade of the Colony, both as regards Imports and Exports, was greater than in the year 1895 but less than in the previous year.

The figures are—

—	1895.	1896.
	£	£
Imports	241,759	242,492
Exports	332,209	435,342
Total Trade ...	£573,968	£677,834

The Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Percentage of Total Trade.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	184,593 0 7	48,156 7 7	232,749 8 2	34·337
Victoria	—	84,036 6 9	84,036 6 9	12·397
New Zealand	35,259 6 6	269,021 13 0	304,280 19 6	44·891
South Australia	—	12 0 0	12 0 0	·002
Total, Australasian Colonies	219,852 7 1	401,226 7 4	621,078 14 5	91·627
Azores	—	24,751 10 0	24,751 10 0	3·652
Canada	3,565 15 8	275 0 0	3,840 15 8	·566
Futuna	1,543 10 0	—	1,543 10 0	·228
Guam	—	4,488 0 0	4,488 0 0	·662
Hawaiian Islands	159 11 0	79 4 0	238 15 0	·035
India	8,367 1 2	—	8,367 1 2	1·234
New Hebrides	29 0 0	—	29 0 0	·004
Samoa	11 12 1	95 7 10	106 19 11	·016
Tonga	418 12 8	4,397 1 0	4,815 13 8	·710
United States	2,281 19 9	—	2,281 19 9	·337
Wallis Island	3,841 0 11	25 5 9	3,866 6 8	·570
Line Islands	9 10 4	4 9 1	13 19 5	·002
New Caledonia	401 11 10	—	401 11 10	·059
Queensland	2,010 10 10	—	2,010 10 10	·298
Total ... £	242,492 3 4	435,342 5 0	677,834 8 4	—

The foregoing statement shows that while the total trade with the Australasian Colonies, amounting to £621,078, formed 91·6 per cent. of the Total Trade of the Colony during the year 1896, the Imports from the Australasian Colonies (£219,852) formed 90·6 per cent. of the total Imports, and the Exports to the Australasian Colonies (£401,226) formed 92·2 per cent. of the total Exports.

The Imports from places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only £22,640 or 9 per cent. of the whole, and of that amount £5,212 represents produce in transit for exportation. It may thus be said that only 7·1 per cent. of the Imports for use in the Colony were obtained from beyond the Australasian Colonies.

The major portion of the goods obtained from the Australasian Colonies are, however, of British origin.

The Exports to places other than the Australasian Colonies amounted to only 7·8 per cent. of the total Exports, or £34,116; of this amount £29,240 represents the export of Copra to Europe, leaving only £4,876 as the value of exports other than Copra shipped to places beyond the Australasian Colonies during the year.

As regards the division of trade among the Australasian Colonies, it appears that of the total Imports therefrom 83·962 per cent. came from New South Wales, and 16·038 per cent. from New Zealand. Of the Exports thereto 67·50 per cent. were sent to New Zealand, 20·945 per cent. to Victoria, 12·002 per cent. to New South Wales, and ·003 per cent. to South Australia. Fiji thus imported most from New South Wales among the Australasian Colonies in 1896. The value of exports to the several colonies is largely dependent on the destination of the sugar consignments.

The export of Sugar during the year to the respective colonies was—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.	Proportion.
	Tons.	£	
New South Wales	101½	1,218	·362
New Zealand	21,018	251,954	74·782
Victoria	6,214	83,746	24·856

The quantity and value of the three staple products of the Colony,—Sugar, Green Fruit, and Copra,—exported during the past six years are given in the following table.

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1891	20,471	327,526	61,501	6,445	59,615
1892	18,883	302,133	62,442	5,901	49,422
1893	15,389	246,231	36,597	4,790	62,235
1894	27,265	436,245	49,115	5,833	57,261
1895	23,210	208,889	20,987	9,244	79,726
1896	27,334	336,929	18,488	5,487	48,950

Although the value of the Green Fruit exported during the year 1896 was less than in the previous year, the quantity was greater.

		Bunches.		Cases.
In 1895 the Export was	...	114,024	...	20,725
In 1896 the quantity was	...	207,352	...	34,934

When the value of the few major exports are deducted from the value of total Exports, it is found that the export of minor products is of inconsiderable value.

This will be seen on reference to the following statement :—

——	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony ..	354,318	570,869	317,851	430,130
Deduct Value of Sugar exported..	246,231	436,245	208,889	336,929
Value of remaining Exports	108,087	134,624	108,962	93,201
Deduct Value of Fruit exported..	36,599	49,115	20,987	18,490
Value of Exports except Sugar and Fruit	71,488	85,509	87,975	74,711
Deduct Value of Copra exported	42,236	57,261	79,726	48,950
Value of Exports except Sugar, Fruit, and Copra ..	29,252	28,248	8,249	25,761
Deduct Value of Colonial Distilled Spirits exported	13,365	16,746	-	10,163
Value of Exports other than Sugar, Fruit, Copra, and Rum	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598

The minor exports comprised in the figures given above may be summarised as follows :—

Item.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Cocoanuts	1,342	2,496	962	1,803
Peanuts	3,587	2,435	1,623	3.649
Wool	417	1,161	524	225
Bêche-de-mer	797	808	483	378
Desiccated Cocoanuts	2,122	802	—	—
Cotton	2,260	741	546	1,632
Maize	2,680	125	—	300
Tobacco	1	95	5	3,798
Total value of principal minor exports	13,206	8,663	4,143	11,785
The total value of minor exports was shown to be	15,887	11,502	8,249	15,598
Which leaves the following sums as the value of subsidiary items of export ...	2,681	2,839	4.106	3,813

(11). NAVIGATION.

98 steamships and 34 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 115,470, entered the two ports of the Colony from abroad during the year 1896.

The interinsular trade is conducted by a subsidised steamer and a fleet of small vessels. The interinsular fleet comprised 66 European-owned vessels, of 793 tons in the aggregate, and 125 native-owned vessels, of a total tonnage of 1,041 tons, besides a large number of undecked vessels. In the expression "native-owned vessels" is included vessels owned by Fijians, half-castes, Indians, and Polynesians. No account is taken of Fijians canoes in this statement.

(12). AGRICULTURE.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920. The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony is 39,402, leaving an estimated acreage of uncultivated land, or of land cultivated by natives for the purpose of growing food only, of 4,914,518.

The cultivated land was under crop during the year as follows:—

	Acres.
Peanuts	284
Bananas	1,231
Pine-apples	323
Beans	24
Cocoanuts	17,704
Maize	380
Sugar-cane	18,432
Tobacco	50
Rice	280
Yams	116
Tea	220
Vanilla	4
Kumalas and potatoes	29
Other products	325
Total	39,402

The number of live-stock in the Colony at the end of the year was:—

	No.
Horses	1,631
Horned-cattle	12,558
Sheep	4,760
Goats	3,115

and a large number of pigs.

Returns for the past year indicate, with respect to the districts in the vicinity of the Rewa Sugar Mill, that the natives have in patches cultivated in the aggregate some 363 acres, yeilding 6,169 tons of cane.

The returns from the other sugar districts have not been received.

A comparatively new and encouraging feature in the agricultural outlook of the Colony is the extensive cultivation of sugar-cane by unindentured Indian coolies. On the Navua River the number of these Indians, all of whom originally came to the Colony as indentured immigrants, has risen from 5 in 1894 to 34 in 1895, and to 106 in 1896. At the end of last year they had some

960 acres of land under cultivation in sugar-cane. The quantity and value of cane grown by them in the three years mentioned is as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1894	1,676	1,129
1895	3,566	2,447
1896	10,353	5,974

There is also at Navua an area of 200 acres under cultivation in bananas by unindentured Indian coolies. The total population of such coolies supported by those industries at Navua amounts to some 875 souls,—comprising 429 men, 185 women, and 261 children.

On the Rewa River there was also at the end of 1896 some 700 acres of land under sugar-cane grown by time-expired Indian immigrants. During the year 12,678 tons of cane from these lands were crushed at Nausori Mill, the amount paid therefor to the Indian cultivators being £7,900.

The number of Indians settled on the lands in question, and dependent on cane-farming for their living, was 210 men, 90 women, and 100 children,—or 400 souls in all.

The cultivation of bananas has extended in the districts of Nadroga and Colo West. It was estimated that at the end of the year some 398,000 banana trees had been planted by the natives under contract with a syndicate which commenced operations in this district last year. There is every reason to hope that the production of fruit, especially in Colo West and in Ba, will increase.

(13). MANUFACTORIES, &c.

There were at work in the Colony during the year seven sugar mills with a nominal daily output of 126 tons, one tea factory with a nominal daily output of dried tea of 400 lbs., and 16 boat-building yards.

(14). METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The meteorological conditions of the year may be seen from the following table :—

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Taken at Suva, Fiji, during 1896, at 9 a.m. Latitude 18° 8′ S. Longitude 178° 26′ E. Height above Mean Sea-level 10 feet. All corrections applied.

Month.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							Vapour in Cubic foot of Air.	Relative Humidity. Sat.=100.
		Mean.	Means of		Absolute Minimum and Maximum.					
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.	Mean.	Mean.
January	29·977	83	74	87	69	15th.	91	28th.	8·4	71
February	29·931	83	74	88	71	7th.	93	29th.	8·8	73
March	29·925	83	75	87	71	9th, 10th, 23rd.	92	28th.	8·8	75
April	30·000	83	74	88	70	22nd, 23rd.	94	5th, 6th.	8·6	73
May	30·049	80	72	85	65	21st.	93	12th.	8·2	74
June	30·100	78	69	83	65	8th, 30th.	87	5th.	7·3	70
July	30·072	76	67	82	60	20th.	90	24th.	6·5	68
August	30·117	76	68	81	61	17th.	87	21st.	6·7	69
September	30·084	77	70	82	67	22nd, 23rd.	90	10th.	7·5	74
October	30·028	75	70	79	65	26th.	83	28th, 31st.	7·0	73
November	29·966	79	72	84	66	5th.	93	1st.	7·1	67
December	29·926	80	75	84	71	12th.	86	6th, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th.	8·1	73
Year	30·015	79	72	84	60	20th July.	94	5th, 6th April.	7·8	72

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS—*continued*.

Height of Thermometers above the ground—4 feet. Height of the Raingauge above the ground—24 feet.

Month.	Amount of Cloud. 9 a.m.	Rainfall.			Weather. No. of Days of					Wind. No. of Observations of								
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Thunder-Storms.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January	5	6·77	1·65	13th.	22	4	—	3	—	—	5	15	11	—	—	—	—	—
February	5	14·05	2·85	20th.	21	7	—	5	—	8	6	13	1	—	—	—	1	—
March	5	8·56	2·80	12th.	24	1	1	6	1	2	10	11	4	3	—	1	—	—
April	3	9·49	2·30	30th.	24	2	—	2	—	2	11	5	11	—	—	—	1	—
May	4	3·10	1·20	18th.	22	3	1	4	—	6	2	10	7	4	2	—	—	—
June	4	1·11	0·31	26th.	17	—	1	—	—	—	6	13	7	3	—	—	1	—
July	4	2·04	0·80	2nd.	17	—	5	3	—	7	4	1	8	6	3	—	2	—
August	5	1·00	0·35	20th.	16	—	—	8	—	2	4	12	10	2	1	—	—	—
September	6	8·57	3·35	6th.	22	—	—	10	—	4	1	11	10	2	2	—	—	—
October	8	10·55	2·29	3rd.	25	—	—	15	—	1	—	15	13	1	1	—	—	—
November	5	3·18	0·86	27th.	22	—	—	3	—	2	4	16	6	1	1	—	—	—
December	6	11·25	3·12	9th.	27	1	—	9	—	—	1	23	5	1	—	—	1	—
Year	5	79·67	3·35	6th Sept.	259	18	8	68	1	34	54	145	93	23	10	1	6	—

(15). ROADS.

Attention has during the year been given to road-making in the Colo and Ra Provinces of Viti Levu, and on the Island of Vanua Levu.

The aggregate length of road and bridle tracks in this Colony is returned at 956 miles.

(16). POSTAL.

The extent of postal communication to and within the Colony is indicated by the following statement:—

Number of Post, Money Order, and Telegraph Offices in 1896.

Post Offices.	Money Order Offices.	Telegraph Offices.
34	2	Nil.

Statement of the Estimated Total Number of Letters, &c., dealt with in 1896.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters ... Post Cards ...	251,763	9,205	11,056	65,480	54,462	391,966
Newspapers ...	154,678	32,454	2,915	110,938	9,485	310,470
Book Packets, Samples, and Circulars ...	23,587	4,196	957	11,720	3,465	43,925
Parcels	—	294	101	440	64	899
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Including Registered ... Despatched. 5,414 ... Received. 5,411).

(17). GENERAL.

The various steam services to the Colony have been well maintained throughout the year. The steamship lines running are the Union Steamship Company, of New Zealand, the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company, and the Australian United Steamship Company. There has thus been communication to and from Sydney three times a month, with Auckland twice, with Samoa, Tonga, Honolulu, and Vancouver (British Columbia) once a month, besides the usual number of irregular steamers in the sugar season.

The number of immigrant labourers introduced during the year was 1,273 (117 Polynesians and 1,156 Indians), the number returning home being 683 Indian Coolies.

J. STEWART,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

2nd September, 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 244.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 217.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 244.

FIJI.

FIJI. 1897

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 217.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva, Fiji,
18th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1897, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN,
Governor.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1897 :—

(1) REVENUE.

The revenue for the years 1896 and 1897 has been as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1896	73,868	18	9
1897	74,491	16	1
Net increase 1897	£622	17	4

The principal increases are under the heads of Native Taxes, £1,230 18*s.* 8*d.*, and Fees of Court, £808 10*s.* 4*d.* There was a decrease of £1,225 11*s.* 1*d.* on Customs Dues. Of this amount £348 7*s.* 11*d.* occurs under the head of rice and £91 4*s.* 5*d.* under that of soap, both being due to increased local production.

520—750—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

FIJI. 1897.

The following table shows the amount of revenue received under various heads during the past two years, with the proportion which each bears to the total revenue :—

—	1897.	Proportion to Total Revenue.	1896.	Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Customs ...	32,994 2 1	44·3	34,219 13 2	46·3
Native Taxes ...	19,217 5 6	25·8	17,986 6 10	24·3
Licenses ...	4,262 18 0	5·7	4,087 4 6	5·5
Stamp Duty ...	745 18 11	1·0	913 1 6	1·2
Total ...	£57,220 4 6		£57,206 14 0	

The proportion of revenue derived from these heads during the years in question is thus—

1896	77·4
1897	76·8

and is equal to 9*s*. 6*d*. per head of population.

The revenue from other sources (amounting to £17,271 11*s*. 7*d*. in the aggregate) is equal to 2*s*. 10*d*. per head of population for the year 1897.

The proportion which the revenue from Customs Duties bears to the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duty is levied) is as follows for the past two years :—

1896	14·4
1897	13·5

The total amount contributed by the natives in payment of their taxes during the two years was—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
1896	26,551	1	2
1897	27,330	0	0

These amounts being in excess of the assessment, the following amounts were refunded to them :—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
1896	8,564	14	4
1897	8,459	2	2

(2) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the past two years amounted to the following sums :—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
1896	73,099	3	1
1897	73,231	11	0

The excess of revenue over expenditure for these years was thus—

	£	s.	d.
1896	769	15	8
1897	1,260	5	1

The division of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges for the two years is as follows :—

——	1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	38,648	8	2	37,724	13	9
Other Charges	34,450	14	11	35,506	17	3

The total expenditure of the Colony is equal per head of the population to the following sums :—

	s.	d.
1896	12	1
1897	12	0

The ratio which expenditure has borne to the value of the exports in each of the two years has been as follows :—

1896	1 to 5·9
1897	1 to 5·9

(3) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Colonial Assets (beyond Public Debt) exceeded the liabilities at 31st December, 1897, by £12,277 16*s.* 2*d.*

The expenditure on Public Debt for 1897 was £9,297 0*s.* 1*d.*

The Debt was reduced by £4,640 5*s.* 1*d.* during the year, and at 31st December, 1897, stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Under Debenture	115,700	0	0
Due to Imperial Government ...	97,556	11	9
Total ...	£213,256	11	9

(4) LOCAL BOARDS.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipal and School Boards in the Colony during the year 1896 were as follows :—

——	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Suva Town Board	1,509	2	8	1,662	5	3
Levuka Town Board	879	1	0	994	15	7
Suva School Board	729	1	8	693	13	2
Levuka School Board	580	16	9	590	12	6
Total	£3,698	2	1	£3,941	6	6

The amount contributed by Government to the Municipalities was £250, and to the School Boards £689 5*s.* for the year.

(5) PENSIONS.

The Pension List amounted to £1,303 17*s.* 2*d.* at 31st December, 1897, having been increased during the year by £483 6*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount the sum of £250 is paid to the children of the late Governor, Sir J. B. Thurston.

(6) POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at 31st December, 1897, was estimated as follows :—

Europeans	3,401
Half-castes	1,231
Indians	12,025
Polynesians	2,278
Rotumans	2,143
Fijians	99,773
Others	947
Total	121,798

The density of population is about 15½ per square mile.

(7) RELIGIOUS MISSIONS.

The statistics returned by the two Missions at work in the Colony are as follows for the year 1897 :—

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches	972
Other Preaching Places	339
European Missionaries	11
Native Ministers	70
Catechists	63
Teachers	1,077
Local Preachers	2,042
Class Leaders	4,684
Church Members (English and Native) ...	30,652
On Trial for Membership	4,305
Catechumens	9,971
Day Schools	1,978
Day School Scholars	34,043
Day School Teachers	2,642
Sabbath Schools	1,652
Sabbath School Scholars	34,805
Sabbath School Teachers	2,666
Adherents	95,086

Roman Catholic Mission.

European Missionaries	28
Churches and Chapels	64
Training Institutions (Native)	3
Native Teachers	180
European Sisters	24
Adherents	9,325
Schools for Natives	136
Schools for Europeans	3
Native Scholars	1,705
European Teachers...	8
European Scholars	138

(8) EDUCATION.

There are two State-aided English Schools and five English Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The aggregate average attendance at these seven schools was 309. The Native Technical School had 73 students in residence during the year.

The particulars with regard to Native Mission Schools are given under the head of "Religious Missions."

(9) CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in British sterling currency and in imperial weights and measures.

The estimated amount of coin in circulation is £96,000, and the amount of paper money £4,000.

(10) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

(Taken from Receiver-General's Report.)

The following table shows the value of the imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony (exclusive of bullion and specie) during the four years under review :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1894	285,981	581,652	867,633
1895	241,759	332,209	573,968
1896	242,492	435,342	677,834
1897	248,748	431,860	680,608

FIJI. 1897.

The total trade of the Colony during the year 1897 was divided as follows :—

Country.	Imports.			Exports.			Total.			Percentage of Total Trade.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
New South Wales	196,361	2	2	103,011	13	0	299,372	15	2	43·985
New Zealand ...	34,728	18	5	216,335	8	7	251,064	7	0	36·887
Victoria... ...	207	2	3	96,474	3	0	96,681	5	3	14·204
Total Australasian Colonies	231,297	2	10	415,821	4	7	647,118	7	5	95·076
Azores	—			12,505	0	0	12,505	0	0	1·852
Canada	4,873	4	10	15	6	0	4,888	10	10	·717
Futuna	1,688	12	0	—			1,688	12	0	·247
Hawaiian Islands	—			10	10	0	10	10	0	·001
India	4,722	8	8	—			4,722	8	8	·693
Line Islands ...	30	5	7	—			30	5	7	·003
New Caledonia...	683	10	0	—			683	10	0	·100
Samoa	275	5	4	40	4	0	315	9	4	·045
Tonga	117	0	0	2,494	19	4	2,611	19	4	·382
United Kingdom	1,183	19	7	—			1,183	19	7	·172
United States ...	1,268	15	10	—			1,268	15	10	·187
Wallis Island ...	2,607	19	4	972	15	5	3,580	14	9	·525
Total ... £	248,748	4	0	431,859	19	4	680,608	3	4	—

Sugar, copra, and green fruit remain the three staple products of the Colony. The quantity and value of these exports during the past four years have been—

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£
1894	27,265	436,245	49,115	5,833	57,261
1895	23,210	208,889	20,987	9,244	79,726
1896	27,334	336,929	18,488	5,487	48,950
1897	26,991	323,830	16,514	7,757	70,182

The foregoing figures show that over 90 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony was transacted with the three Australasian Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Victoria, in the proportion of 43·9, 36·8, and 14·2 per cent., respectively. But, as a matter of fact, many of the importations are of German origin, and it is noticeable that within the last few years there has been a steady increase of the following "made in Germany" articles, *i.e.*, prints, glassware, sewing machines, and enamelled ware.

(11) NAVIGATION.

During the year 1897, 102 steam ships and 27 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 124,128, entered the two ports of the Colony from abroad.

The Interinsular trade is carried on by a subsidised steamer and a fleet of small vessels. The Interinsular fleet comprises 73 European-owned vessels of 1,072 tons in the aggregate, and 116 Native-owned vessels of a total tonnage of 1,104 tons, outside a large number of undecked vessels. In the expression "Native-owned vessels" are included vessels owned by Fijians, Half-castes, Indians, and Polynesians. No account is taken of Fijian canoes in this statement. Daily communication exists between Suva and Rewa and Navua by means of steam launches.

(12) AGRICULTURE.

The acreage of the Colony is estimated at 4,953,920. The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony is 45,970, leaving an estimated acreage of uncultivated land, or of land under cultivation by natives for food purposes only, of 4,907,950.

The cultivated land, exclusive of land cultivated by natives solely for purposes of food, was under crop during the year as follows:—

	Acres.
Peanuts	267
Bananas	1,254
Pine-apples	45
Beans	13
Cocoanuts	19,912
Maize	407
Sugar Cane	23,118
Tobacco	75
Rice	431
Yams	160
Tea	210
Coffee	4
Kumalas and potatoes	21
Limes	2
Other products	51
Total	45,970

The number of live stock in the Colony at the end of the year was—

Horses	1,832
Horned cattle	15,136
Sheep	4,716
Goats	4,049

During the past year the Fijians in the vicinity of the Sugar Mill at Nausori and Rewa cultivated some 400 acres, yielding 7,400 tons of cane, valued at £4,233. In the Navua district they cultivated 1,084 tons of cane, valued at £391. The cultivation of sugar cane by unindentured Indian coolies has considerably increased. On the Rewa river an area of 710 acres, yielding 14,574 tons of cane, valued at £8,652, was cultivated by these people. The number of coolies settled on these 710 acres and dependent on cane growing is estimated at 250 men, 110 women, and 130 children. In the Navua district 234 unindentured Indian coolies cultivated some 826 acres of cane. The quantity and value of cane grown by them during the past four years has been as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1894	1,676	1,129
1895	3,566	2,447
1896	10,353	5,974
1897	12,491	8,002

(13) MANUFACTORIES, &c.

There were at work in the Colony during the year 5 sugar mills, one tea factory, 13 boatbuilding yards, and 2 soap factories.

(14) METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following table gives the Meteorological conditions of the year 1897 :—

SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

At 9 a.m. Local Time, being

Month of	Means of Attached Thermometer.	Barometer. Corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr. and Mean Sea Level.	Temperature. Corrected. Dry Bulb.	Temperature. Corrected. Wet Bulb.	Temperature. Entered to Previous Day. Maximum.	Temperature. Entered to Previous Day. Minimum.	Humidity. Dew Point.	Humidity. Vapour in Cubic Foot of Air.	Humidity. Humidity Sat. = 100.	Humidity. Elastic Force of Aqueous Vapour.	Wind. Force (0 to 12).	Cloud. Amount of Cloud (0 to 10).	Rain. Entered to Previous Day.	Rain. Estimated Duration.	Rain. Total rain for the Month.	Rain. Maximum Rainfall.	Rain. Date.
	°		°	°	°	°	°	grs.	°	ins.			ins.	h. m.	ins.	in.	
January ..	81	29·898	82	74	86·0	74·0	69·6	7·6	67	0·731	2	5	0·07	0.21	2·27	0·84	10th.
February ..	83	29·939	83	76	88·0	74·0	71·4	7·8	67	0·766	2	4	0·24	0.49	6·60	3·47	2nd.
March	83	29·859	83	78	91·8	76·0	73·0	7·7	66	0·816	1	4	0·24	2.23	7·42	2·49	29th.
April	80	29·894	80	76	84·0	75·0	73·8	8·9	80	0·837	1	6	0·66	5.52	19·65	3·84	19th.
May	79	30·022	80	75	85·0	73·0	71·1	8·2	74	0·761	2	5	0·15	3.52	4·67	0·89	17th.
June	75	30·100	76	71	80·0	72·0	66·5	7·1	74	0·659	2	8	0·09	2.38	2·62	0·35	19th.
July	74	30·086	75	70	78·9	69·0	66·1	7·0	76	0·651	2	6	0·15	3.19	4·61	1·08	7th.
August	75	30·057	76	71	81·7	69·0	66·8	7·2	76	0·673	2	5	0·12	2.15	3·73	1·02	21st.
September ..	84	30·052	77	71	81·4	69·7	65·9	7·0	69	0·650	2	5	0·09	1.33	2·57	0·61	13th.
October ..	78	30·033	80	72	83·1	71·5	68·0	7·4	68	0·693	2	5	0·13	1.49	3·90	1·00	13th.
November ..	79	29·945	80	73	83·3	72·5	67·9	7·3	67	0·690	3	7	0·50	3.22	14·86	4·23	10th.
December ..	84	29·818	80	77	84·0	74·0	72·7	8·5	77	0·791	2	7	0·97	5 29	20·12	5·45	18th.
Means and Totals.	79·7	29·975	79	74	83·9	72·5	69·4	7·6	72	0·726	2	6	0·28	2.48	7·75	2·11	—

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Highest corrected reading of Barometer—30·288 on 29th June, at 9 a.m.

Lowest corrected reading of Barometer—29·656 on 20th December, at 3 p.m.

Highest Temperature in Shade—98 on 14th March.

Lowest Temperature in Shade—62 on 2nd August.

TAKEN AT SUVA, FIJI, DURING 1897.

11h. 53m. 44s. fast of Greenwich.

Barometer.		Date.		Weather.					Wind.									
				No. of Days of					No. of Observations of									Month of
Highest Reading, 9 a.m.	Lowest Reading, 3 p.m.	Date of Highest Reading.	Date of Lowest Reading.	Rain.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calms.	
29·992	29·698	9th.	30th.	25	0	0	3	0	1	9	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	January.
30·052	29·764	4th.	26th.	17	3	0	2	0	4	5	14	3	1	0	1	0	0	February.
30·044	29·723	23rd.	5th.	21	14	1	3	0	4	14	8	1	3	1	0	0	0	March.
30·012	29·690	30th.	25th.	25	0	2	14	0	2	4	17	2	1	3	0	1	0	April.
30·201	29·764	28th.	23rd.	29	3	0	5	0	5	3	17	3	2	1	0	0	0	May.
30·288	29·912	29th.	8th.	28	0	0	21	0	0	3	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	June.
30·198	29·909	23rd.	18th.	2	0	0	11	0	2	7	9	11	1	0	0	1	0	July.
30·124	29·861	14th.	11th.	17	0	1	9	0	3	6	7	13	1	1	0	0	0	August.
30·115	29·824	21st.	15th.	15	0	2	8	0	1	6	11	10	2	0	0	0	0	September
30·119	29·848	31st.	12th.	20	1	1	6	0	0	5	15	7	3	1	0	0	0	October.
30·096	29·674	1st.	11th.	23	2	0	8	1	1	7	16	6	0	0	0	0	0	November.
29·967	29·656	6th.	22nd.	27	8	0	10	0	4	8	11	5	0	3	0	0	0	December.
30·101	29·775	—	—	21	31	7	100	1	27	77	149	82	17	10	1	2	0	Means and Totals.

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Greatest Daily Rainfall—5·45 on 18th December.

Total Rainfall for the Year—93·02.

Number of Days on which Rain fell—247.

J. D. W. VAUGHAN, F.R.M.S., F.R.G.S., &c.,
Government Meteorologist.

(15) POSTAL.

The extent of Postal communication to and within the Colony is indicated by the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				TOTAL.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters ... ... Post cards ...	257,020	7,240	11,088	65,935	54,910	396,193
Newspapers ...	172,576	30,107	3,068	105,373	8,839	320,163
Book-packets, samples, &c., circulars.	29,084	4,282	1,152	16,563	3,798	54,879
Parcels	—	311	94	572	70	1,047
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Including registered ...		Despatched 5,940		Received 5,589		

Money Order Conventions were in force with Great Britain and Canada. Money Orders were issued for £173 3*s*. 9*d*., and paid for £169 11*s*. 7*d*.

(16) PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year a sum of £117 3*s*. 8*d*. was expended on opening up the mouth of the Sigatoka river in connection with the banana industry. A telephone line is in process of construction from Suva to Ba viâ Nausori, Viria, Vunidawa, and Nadarivatu, to be worked by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steam Shipping Company. The length of the line is 100 miles.

The estimated length of tracks and bridle paths in the Colony is 1,067 miles.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 268.

FIJI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 244)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August, 1899.

LONDON:
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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta	1897
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos–Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

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3

No. 268.

FIJI.

Fiji
1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 244.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva,
28th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1898, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

3454—800—8/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

FIJI.
1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1898.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received, under various heads, for the years 1898 and 1897 :—

Head of Revenue.	1898.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	45,300	10	3	32,994	2	1
Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	3,944	4	8	4,254	8	2
Native Taxes	18,923	0	6	19,217	5	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	8,051	0	9	7,298	3	10
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	8,840	5	10	6,846	13	11
Post Office	2,555	12	10	2,686	6	1
Rent of Government Property ...	544	16	7	561	8	0
Interest	373	2	4	0	12	0
Miscellaneous Receipts...	5,545	10	9	503	19	3
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	86	11	0	123	17	3
Total ... ... £	94,164	15	6	74,491	16	1

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1898 and 1897 under the various heads :—

FIJI.
1898.

Head of Expenditure.	1898.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,290	5	1	9,297	0	1
Pensions	1,546	4	8	873	4	2
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,652	4	11	2,515	4	0
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,060	1	10	1,130	5	3
Government Printing Office	1,756	4	6	1,522	7	8
Audit Department	712	0	7	723	15	0
Postal Department	2,542	10	8	2,664	6	1
Provincial Department	5,776	7	0	5,738	14	2
Treasury...	4,006	14	11	3,760	4	5
Customs Department	2,709	13	6	2,688	6	6
Port and Marine Department... ...	1,647	6	1	1,464	9	4
Immigration Department	6,563	17	1	7,336	12	10
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	8,894	1	4	8,693	5	0
Police Department	2,842	5	0	2,989	1	1
Armed Native Constabulary	2,108	15	3	1,836	6	1
Prisons Department	3,467	2	2	2,975	7	4
Medical Department	4.332	18	2	4,547	7	5
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,305	19	8	2,240	0	6
Education	1,534	6	4	1,595	1	1
Transport	1,318	0	9	1,434	8	5
Transport—Special Expenditure (on account).	84	18	7	—		
Miscellaneous	1,627	19	5	1,165	15	8
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,706	1	7	1,670	6	11
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	2,088	5	0	2,488	0	9
	72,574	4	1	71,249	9	9
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	3,320	4	5	1,882	1	3
Deposit for Expenditure on Public Works in 1899.	11,700	0	0	—		
Total ... £	87,594	8	6	73,231	11	0

Fiji.
1898.

The total revenue and expenditure during the past five years is as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	80,053 19 0	72,203 15 4
1895	78,240 5 9	76,204 3 11
1896	73,868 18 9	73,099 3 1
1897	74,491 16 1	73,231 11 0
1898	94,164 15 6	87,594 8 6

The increased revenue has mainly accrued under the heads of "Customs" and "Miscellaneous." The increase under the latter head is due to an extraordinary receipt of £4,229 from Return Passages Fund on account of hospital fees of destitute Indians.

The surplus of revenue over expenditure, after placing £11,700 on deposit for expenditure on public works during 1899, amounted to £6,570.

(B.) *Important Changes in Taxation.*

The increase in the amount of Customs dues is due chiefly to the new tariff which came into force on the 10th March, 1898. Of the total increase of £12,300 in Customs dues some £9,800 may be attributed to this cause, and £2,500 to improvement in trade. The principal alterations in the Customs tariff consist of the increase of the *ad valorem* duties on hollowware, furniture, and galvanised manufactures from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. The following articles, previously admitted free, are now dutiable, viz., breadstuffs, meats, and sugar. The duty on certain lines of drapery has also been altered from an *ad valorem* to a specific rate.

FIJI.
1898.

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1898 :—

Assets.		£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—				
Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£19,395 15 3			
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colonies	9,978 8 5			
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	2,598 19 11		PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—	
Revenue paid into the Bank in January, 1899, but brought to account in December ...	170 14 9	32,143 18 4	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...	32,143 18 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—				
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colonies	£37,021 8 8			
Bill sent to Crown Agents for investment (maturing) ...	3,000 0 0			
Carried forward ...	£40,021 8 8	£32,143 18 4	Carried forward ...	£32,143 18 4

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities*—cont.

Assets.		£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*		£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	£40,021 8 8	32,143 18 4	Brought forward ...		32,143 18 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN PASSAGES FUND—*cont.*			INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—		
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	723 12 3	40,745 0 11	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...		40,745 0 11
DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—			DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—		
Fixed Deposit at Interest ...	£150 0 0				
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	71 0 6	221 0 6	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...		221 0 6
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—			INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—		
Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£400 0 0		Cheque Unpaid, 31st December, 1898	£4 0 0	
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	223 9 3	623 6 3	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898	619 9 3	623 9 3

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—					
Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£5,180 0 0				
Amount brought to account in December, 1898, but paid into Bank in January, 1899	92 12 0		INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—		
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	1,234 14 0		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898	£96 14 9	
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance, 30th September, 1898	221 3 7	6,728 9 7	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898	6,631 14 10	6,728 9 7
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—			PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—		
Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£6,887 8 5		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898	£1,638 18 11	
Remitted to Crown Agents for investment (Bill maturing)...	4,200 0 0				
Credit Balance at Bank of New Zealand	1,901 9 6	12,988 17 11	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898	11,349 19 0	12,988 17 11
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.—Amounts due to the Department		5,800 19 7	DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable		36 3 4
ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...		17 10 0	RETURNING POLYNESIANS.—Amount payable ...		40 5 5
Carried forward ...		£99,269 6 1	Carried forward ...		£93,527 5 3

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities*—cont.

Assets	£	s.	d.	*Liabilities.*	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	£99,269	6	1	Brought forward ...	£93,527	5	3
CROWN AGENTS.—Bills remitted on Public Account (maturing)	13,000	0	0	Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of Native Lands on which interest at 3 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the Native Owners ...	2,734	13	4
WORKS ADVANCE ACCOUNT— Amount recoverable	156	18	4	PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Cheques Outstanding on the 31st December	6,225	1	5
Amounts placed on Fixed Deposit with the Bank of New Zealand on Public Account	10,000	0	0	Overpayment into the Bank in December ...	0	0	8
ROTUMA ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable	201	0	2	CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES: Debit balance on the 31st December, 1898	1,098	9	6
Revenue paid into Bank in January and February, 1899, belonging to and brought to account in December, 1898	2,819	14	1	PUBLIC WORKS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable	11,700	0	0
					115,285	10	2
PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Credit Balance with the Bank of New Zealand	7,063	2	9	Excess of Assets ... ... £	17,224	11	3
Total ... £	132,510	1	5	Total ... £	132,510	1	5

(D.) *Public Debt.*

The public debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1898, amounted to £209,216 6*s.* 8*d.* Of this, £96,516 6*s.* 8*d.* is an Imperial advance, without interest, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder represents £112,700 debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt.

(E.) *Currency.*

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, one in Suva and one in Levuka.

(F.) *Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	1,684	1,581	961	977
1895 ...	1,670	1,537	1,155	980
1896 ...	1,680	1,506	1,238	1,129
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	679	814	518	518
1895 ...	742	723	632	612
1896 ...	719	678	552	567
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520

FIJI.
1898.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) *Imports and Exports.*

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,254	1,200
2. Bags and sugar-mats	6,862	7,145
3. Beer	3,059	2,872
4. Books	982	779
5. Boots and shoes	3,241	3,009
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	23,085	22,366
7. Butter	2,580	3,403
8. Coal	14,274	11,954
9. Cordage	1,195	1,279
10. Cutlery	1,321	1,403
11. Drapery	49,254	45,134
12. Drugs	2,467	2,805
13. Fish	2,225	1,966
14. Furniture	1,467	1,189
15. Galvanised iron and goods	3,039	3,448
16. Glassware and crockery	1,737	1,820
17. Hardware	12,807	14,776
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	3,564	2,502
19. Jewellery	1,373	1,445

(A.) *Imports and Exports*—cont.

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
20. Leatherware	1,247	1,708
21. Live stock	4,457	5,607
22. Machinery	10,710	4,082
23. Machinery—agricultural	1,326	1,586
24. Manure	7,390	4,156
25. Meats	9,234	9,302
26. Oils	6,227	6,591
27. Oats	486	—
28. Pickles and oilstores	3,017	936
29. Paints	1,470	1,482
30. Produce	8,541	2,119
31. Rice	11,205	8,730
32. Ship chandlery	1,841	1,427
33. Soap	714	637
34. Spirits	2,829	3,180
35. Stationery	2,698	2,571
36. Sugar	4,088	2,663
37. Timber...	4,280	5,262
38. Tobacco	1,702	1,923
39. Vegetables and green fruit	3,063	3,880
40. Wines	1,479	1,264
41. Woodenware	1,730	530

FIJI.
1898.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894	285,981	581,652
1895	241,759	332,209
1896	242,492	435,342
1897	248,748	431,860
1898	234,850	534,105

The bulk of the goods imported into this Colony come from Sydney, and there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture. As far as can be ascertained, there has been a slight increase in the importation of foreign drapery and enamelled goods.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, green fruit, and colonial distilled spirit. The quantity and value of these exports during the past five years have been :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1894	27,265	436,245	5,833	57,257	49,115	133,971	16,746
1895	23,210	208,889	9,244	79,726	20,987	—	—
1896	27,334	336,929	5,487	48,950	18,488	78,890	10,163
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886

The export of green fruit has increased. Large areas have been planted by the natives under agreement. The natives have also planted considerable areas with cocoa-nuts, and it is therefore probable that there will, in course of time, be an increase in the production of copra.

(B.) *Manufactures.*

There are at present at work in the Colony 5 sugar mills, with a nominal daily output of 204 tons of dried sugar ; 1 tea factory, with a nominal daily output of 400 lbs. of dried tea ; 16 boat-building yards ; 2 soap works ; and 2 saw-mills.

(C.) *Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.*

The principal agricultural industry in the Colony is the cultivation of sugar. The Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., owning three mills in this Colony, are the largest producers. The total area under sugar-cane cultivation is estimated at 22,078 acres, from which was produced 342,998 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the cultivation of sugar-cane by Fijians in the vicinity of the various sugar centres during 1898:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	422	6,653	3,811
Ba	71	1,533	893
Navua	92	604	300
Labasa	137	1,575	830

The cultivation of cane by Indian coolies who have completed their term of indenture is increasing. During the past year they cultivated, at Rewa, 848 acres, producing 16,408 tons of cane, valued at £8,909. At Navua, during the same period, they cultivated 1,565 acres, producing 24,594 tons of sugar-cane, valued at £14,876.

With a view to inducing Indian immigrants whose terms of indentures have expired to remain in the Colony, Government has acquired three blocks of land, aggregating some 4,000 acres, which is being leased to these people on easy terms. Two of the blocks are situated in the Labasa district and are suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane, &c., and for grazing cattle. The third block consists of a strip of land half a mile wide on either side of the road now being formed between Suva and Rewa. It contains some 1,300 acres, part of which has been blocked off and will shortly be offered for lease.

There is a botanic station at Suva. Economic plants, as coffee, cacao, ramie, &c., are raised and supplied to planters free of cost.

(D.) *Land Grants and General Value of Land.*

Only one Crown grant was issued during the year, for 1 acre 2 roods 5 poles.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 423,018 acres.

Land may be leased from the native owners, through the Crown. The rental varies from 3*s*. to 15*s*. per acre per annum.

FIJI.
1898.

(E.) *Shipping.*

The following statement shows the number and tonnage, and nationality, of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the past two years at the two ports of entry :—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	Steam	102	113,472	103	126,228	100	112,731	104	125,653
"	Sailing	17	6,576	12	3,074	17	1,951	12	2,922
American	"	3	703	2	680	3	703	2	680
Norwegian	"	5	2,965	7	2,857	6	3,544	6	2,599
Russian	"	—	—	1	399	—	—	1	399
French	Steam	1	358	—	—	1	358	—	—
German	Sailing	—	—	1	468	—	—	1	468
Tongan	"	1	54	1	46	—	—	1	46

The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years :—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1894	128,662	130,251	258,913
1895	118,533	116,869	235,402
1896	115,470	115,586	231,056
1897	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519

The increase shown above is mainly in British shipping, and is accounted for by the increased trade with the Australasian Colonies.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1898 :—

I. The Customs Duties Ordinance.—A more uniform tariff is enacted and the Customs dues are slightly increased.

IV. To amend the law relating to Perjury.—By this Ordinance a summary penalty is provided for perjury in certain cases.

VIII. To amend the Native Lands Ordinance, 1892.—Facilitates the leasing of small areas of native lands by doing away with the necessity for survey by a surveyor.

X. To provide for the establishment and regulation of a Volunteer Force.—This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a volunteer force for the purpose of repelling invasion or quelling local disturbances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The ordinary subjects of an English education are taught.

There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with 4 teachers and 94 scholars, and one in Levuka with 2 teachers and 59 scholars. There are also 5 Roman Catholic schools for Europeans, with an attendance of 149.

There is a Government technical school where 70 native youths are instructed in primary education (including English), carpentry, boat building, planting, and the care of stock.

The Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions provide entirely for the education of the natives throughout the group. The former have 1,926 schools, with 2,723 teachers and 33,369 scholars. The latter have 146 schools, with 178 teachers and 1,815 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) *Hospitals.*

There is a hospital at Suva, maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a resident medical officer assisted by two European nurses. During 1898 there were 1,177 patients admitted, including 82 Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,181 5*s.* 3*d.* and the expenditure (exclusive of salary of medical officer) to £1,825 16*s.* 4*d.*

(B.) *Asylums.*

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of an European warder. The chief medical officer is superintendent. There were 9 admissions during 1898. Revenue, £52 5*s.* 3*d.*; expenditure, £480 3*s.* 4*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Police.*

The police force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of 1 European inspector, 1 European sergeant, 1 native inspector, 2 native sergeants, 3 native corporals, 1 Indian and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the rural police, consisting of 3 European sergeants, 13 native sergeants, and 34 constables, under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) *Prisons.*

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There are also gaols attached to the various magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months are sent to Suva Gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka Gaols during 1898 was 765. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews and office messengers, &c.

(C.) *Criminal Statistics.*

During 1898 the total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates was 7,760. Of these 969 were offences against the person, 478 were larceny, 314 were offences against property, and 5,999 were other offences—being principally breaches of the Labour Ordinances. Of the 7,760 offences reported, 69 were committed to the Supreme Court, 5,121 were summarily dealt with, and 2,570 were dismissed.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1898, compared with the figures of the census of 1891:—

Class.	Census of 5th April, 1891.			Estimate on 31st December, 1898.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,273	763	2,036	2,444	1,483	3,927
Half-castes ...	529	547	1,076	615	623	1,238
Indians	4,998	2,470	7,468	8,293	4,027	12,320
Polynesians ...	1,923	344	2,267	1,772	302	2,074
Rotumans ...	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,034	1,131	2,165
Fijians	56,445	49,355	105,800	52,656	46,298	98,954
Others	143	171	314	431	629	1,060
Totals ...	66,367	54,813	121,180	67,245	54,493	121,738

There has been a large decrease in the Fijian population. For 1898 the births amongst this class were estimated at 3,481 and the deaths at 4,300, thus showing a decrease of 819 for the year.

It is hoped that the steps now being taken to improve the condition of the natives will check the heavy mortality.

Public Health.

The general state of health in the Colony during the year was good. In August a case of measles was detected in Suva, the first which has occurred beyond the limits of the quarantine station since 1884. The epidemic proved to be of an exceedingly mild type and no death resulted, although nearly 200 cases were notified in the ensuing three months. Quarantine for measles has now been discontinued.

The Colony possesses probably the most healthy tropical climate in the world. Malarial fever is practically unknown. The death-rate among Europeans is exceptionally low, as will be seen from the following table :—

Year.	European Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1878	2,000	43	21·5
1881	2,671	45	16·84
1884	3,567	59	16·54
1887	2,105	31	14·72
1890	2,059	35	16·99
1893	2,474	25	10·1
1894	2,666	31	11·63
1895	2,872	31	10·79
1896	3,292	31	9·41
1897	3,401	30	8·82
1898	3,927	30	7·64

Sanitation.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which have any system of drainage beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea.

The heavy tropical rains, by washing the surface and carrying off impurities, do much to preserve the health of the Colony. Scavenging is done on the dry earth system.

Climate.

The total rainfall for the year was 109·62 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 3·97 inches The highest temperature in the shade was 93·2° on the 14th May (phenomenal for the cool season), and the lowest 61·5° on the 27th October. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The particulars as to the postal service of the Colony are contained in the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	267,755	9,048	10,546	72,280	56,312	415,941
Newspapers ...	160,665	35,681	3,205	109,009	9,813	318,453
Book packets, samples and circulars.	30,586	3,852	1,111	13,455	4,092	53,096
Parcels	—	364	104	711	91	1,270
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
*Including Registered	6,162	6,447

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during the year :—

—	Issued in the Colony.			Paid in the Colony.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	411	7	7	274	4	9
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	1,164	7	5	254	7	7
Total ... ... £	1,575	15	0	528	12	4

On the 25th December the penny postage system with the United Kingdom and various Colonies came into force.

A telephone line is in course of construction between Suva and Ba, a distance of some 120 miles. The work has been undertaken by the Government in conjunction with the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. and the Union Steamship Co.

IX.—Military Forces and Expenditure.

Volunteers.

A volunteer force was established during the year, numbering 205 officers and men. A grant of 300 rifles and 150,000 rounds of ammunition was received from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary.

In addition to the above mentioned force there is a body of armed native constabulary numbering 120 officers and men.

X.—General Observations.

Means of Communication.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere. The construction of a properly formed and metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, has been commenced. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. Much improvement has been effected of late in this direction, by small steam launches running up the rivers and inside the barrier reefs. There is now daily communication between Suva and the sugar-growing districts of Rewa and Navua, and a bi-weekly service from Suva to Levuka and weekly to Ba, another sugar district. Communication between the various islands is also maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 285 small sailing vessels.

Immigration.

Indian immigration was commenced in 1879 for the purpose of supplying labour for the planters. During 1898 573 immigrants arrived in the Colony and 393 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 12,320 Indians in the Colony of whom 4,810 are serving their first indenture.

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Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works for 1898 (exclusive of establishments) was £4,888 0*s*. 10*d*. Of this amount some £2,600 was expended in maintaining and constructing various Government buildings; £100 was expended on a sea wall, Levuka; and £100 on removing obstructions at the mouth of the Sigatoka river. Amongst other measures adopted for the improvement of the condition of the native race, steps have been taken for the improvement of water supplies. Water was laid on to the town of Tupou, Lakeba, at a total cost of £297, mainly contributed by the natives. In the province of Kadavu three towns have been supplied with water brought some two miles in a 3-inch pipe. The estimated population of the villages supplied is 370. The total cost was £570, of which £230 was paid by the Government.

Future Prospects of Trade.

At present the four products sugar, green fruit, copra, and distilled spirit make up 96 per cent. of the total exports. The following table shows the value of the principal minor exports of the Colony:—

Export.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Cocoa-nuts ...	7,834 sacks	1,749
Peanuts	163 tons	2,615
Tobacco	2 tons 5 cwt.	258
Vanilla	—	600

It will be seen from the foregoing figures that there is room for considerable extension in the cultivation of such products as coffee, cocoa, vanilla, limes, ginger, maize, &c. A report by the Kew authorities spoke in very high terms of samples of Fiji grown ginger submitted to them. There is a market obtainable for all the above mentioned products in the neighbouring Australian Colonies. For persons possessing the necessary experience in tropical agriculture, and a certain amount of capital, there is undoubtedly an opening in the cultivation of the above named and like products.

The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited for Europeans. Manual work is for the most part performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed for skilled labour and as overseers. The following are the average rates of wages:—Carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s*. per day; Overseers, £80 to £200, with quarters.

W. E. ALLARDYCE,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 296.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 268.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
267	St. Lucia	1898
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898-99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898-99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	"
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements...	1898
288	Basutoland	1898-99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897-98 & 1898-99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898-99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.

No. 296.

FIJI.

Fiji,
1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 268.)

Governor Sir G. T. M. O'Brien to Mr. Chamberlain.

Government House, Suva,
29th June, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that seven copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1899 are being forwarded to you per book post by this mail, and to enclose copy of a Report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'Brien.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1899.

Fiji,
1899.

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the amount of Revenue received, under various heads, for the years 1899 and 1898:—

Head of Revenue.	1899.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	52,631	7	0	45,300	10	3
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	4,221	3	5	3,944	4	8
Native Taxes	20,767	11	6	18,923	0	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	7,889	4	5	8,051	0	9
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	8,351	11	11	8,840	5	10
Post Office	2,547	2	6	2,555	12	10
Rent of Government Property ...	577	1	3	544	16	7
Interest	300	0	0	373	2	4
Miscellaneous Receipts...	1,058	13	8	5,545	10	9
	98,343	15	8	94,078	4	6
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	277	12	0	86	11	0
Total ... ... £	98,621	7	8	94,164	15	6

The following is a statement of the Expenditure for the years 1899 and 1898, under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	1899.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,281	5	1	9,290	5	1
Pensions	2,020	7	0	1,546	4	8
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,673	14	7	2,652	4	11
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,419	5	6	1,060	1	10
Government Printing Office	1,529	6	8	1,756	4	6
Audit Department	688	6	7	712	0	7
Postal Department	2,045	17	6	2,542	10	8
Provincial Department	7,556	0	11	5,776	7	0
Treasury...	3,560	4	6	4,006	14	11
Customs Department	2,716	5	11	2,709	13	6
Port and Marine Department... ...	1,599	8	1	1,647	6	1
Immigration Department	6,669	3	7	6,563	17	1
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	8,677	16	3	8,894	1	4
Police Department	2,918	4	4	2,842	5	0
Armed Native Constabulary	2,436	10	7	2,108	15	3
Prisons Department	3,759	11	4	3,467	2	2
Medical Department	4,706	19	3	4,332	18	2
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,935	11	6	2,305	19	8
Education	1,603	12	5	1,534	6	4
Transport	1,295	6	4	1,318	0	9
Transport — Special Repairs (on account).	1,068	7	5	84	18	7
Miscellaneous	1,683	19	1	1,627	19	5
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,749	13	0	1,706	1	7
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	1,889	10	1	2,088	5	0
	76,484	7	6	72,574	4	1
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	11,083	5	8	3,320	4	5
Deposit for Expenditure, 1899—Public Works.	—			11,700	0	0
Deposit for Expenditure, 1900—Public Works.	7,000	0	0	—		
Deposit for Expenditure, 1900—Contribution to Transvaal War Fund.	1,000	0	0	—		
Total ... £	95,567	13	2	87,594	8	6

The total Revenue and Expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895	78,240 5 9	76,204 3 11
1896	73,868 18 9	73,099 3 1
1897	74,491 16 1	73,231 11 0
1898	94,146 15 6	87,594 8 6
1899	98,621 7 8	95,567 13 2

The increased Revenue has mainly accrued under the heads of "Customs" and "Native Taxes." The increase under the former head is due to improvement in trade. The duty collected on drapery amounted to £12,443, as compared with £8,821 in 1898. The increase under the head of "Native Taxes" is due to the assessment of £19,700 having been paid, and certain debits from previous years paid off. In addition to this, the natives obtained refunds aggregating £18,693 12*s.* 6*d.* The falling off under the head of "Miscellaneous" is due to an extraordinary receipt in 1898 of £4,229 from Return Passages Fund on account of hospital fees on destitute Indians.

After placing £8,000 to deposit for expenditure in 1900, the surplus of Revenue over Expenditure amounted to £3,053 14*s.* 6*d.*

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following is a statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1899:—

Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.			*Liabilities.*		
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—			INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—		
Fixed Deposit		400 0 0	Bank of New Zealand : Debit Balance, 31st December, 1899	£11 11 4	
			Amount to Credit of Account	388 8 8	400 0 0
RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—			RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—		
Invested in Colonial Stocks ...	£40,459 3 3		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1899	£276 3 8	
Money paid into Bank in January, 1900, but brought to account in December, 1899	220 10 0		Amount to Credit of Account	45,544 11 10	45,820 15 6
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December	5,141 2 3	45,820 15 6			
Carried forward ...		46,220 15 6	Carried forward ...		46,220 15 6

FIJI, 1899.

Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Assets.		£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...		46,220 15 6	Brought forward ...	46,220 15 6
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—			PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—	
Fixed Deposits at Bank of New Zealand	£11,186 18 1			
Invested in Colonial Stock ...	19,953 9 4			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1899	448 5 4	31,588 12 9	Amount to Credit of Account	31,588 12 9
DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—			DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—	
Fixed Deposit at Interest ...	£150 0 0			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1899	90 13 4	240 13 4	Amount to Credit of Account	240 13 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—				
Fixed Deposit at Interest ...	£12,652 0 0			
Money paid into Bank in January, 1900, but brought to account in December, 1899	3 17 8			

Fiji, 1899.

Bank Credit Balance on the 31st December, 1899... ...	2,682 17 0		**Indian Immigrants' Introduction Fund**—		
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance with him on the 30th September, 1899 ...	1,239 16 9		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1899	£90 12 10	
		16,578 11 5	Amount to Credit of Account	16,487 18 7	16,578 11 5
Provincial Department Deposit Account—			**Provincial Department Deposit Account**—		
Invested in Colonial Stocks ...	£4,252 3 11		Cheques Unpaid, 31st December, 1899	£212 17 5	
Fixed Deposits at Interest ...	5,150 3 11		Amount to Credit of Account, 31st December, 1899 ...	9,734 5 3	
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1899	544 14 10	9,947 2 8			9,947 2 8
			Native Taxes (1899) Account—		
			Cheques Outstanding... ...	£1,513 18 9	
Native Taxes (1899) Account.—Bank Credit Balance, 31st December		2,231 9 4	Amount to Credit of Account	717 10 7	2,231 9 4
Crown Agents.—Bills maturing in London ...		19,000 0 0	**Public Account.**—Cheques Outstanding ...		7,930 12 10
Immigration Department.—Amounts due to the Department		6,158 14 5	Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of Native Lands, on which interest at 3 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the Native Owners ...		2,734 13 4
Revenue paid into the Bank in January and February, 1900, but brought to account in December, 1899		7,931 0 11	**Crown Agents.**—Overpayment, 31st December, 1899...		932 13 1
Carried forward ...		109,897 0 4	Carried forward ...		118,405 4 3

Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Assets.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	109,897	0	4
PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Credit Balance, 31st December, 1899	8,759	4	8
ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...	183	18	6
ROTUMA ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable	150	7	7
WORKS ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable	91	17	10
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...	149	11	9
Total ... £	149,232	0	8

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...				118,405	4	3
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...				50	5	0
DEPOSIT FOR EXPENDITURE IN 1900—						
Public Works—						
Suva-Rewa Road	£2,000	0	0			
Rewa Water Supply, No. 2	3,000	0	0			
Suva Wharf Renewal ...	2,000	0	0			
	7,000	0	0			
Suva Wharf, brought forward	2,000	0	0			
Suva Circular Road, brought forward	140	10	10			
Contribution to Transvaal War Fund	1,000	0	0			
				10,140	10	10
				128,596	0	1
Excess of Assets ... ... £				20,636	0	7
Total ... £				149,232	0	8

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1899, amounted to £205,076 1*s.* 7*d.* Of this amount £95,476 1*s.* 7*d.* is an advance, without interest, from Imperial funds, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder consists of £109,600 Debentures, bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these Debentures. The interest on Debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, at Suva and Levuka.

(F.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards, and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1895 ...	1,670	1,537	1,155	980
1896 ...	1,680	1,506	1,238	1,129
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976
1899 ...	1,710	1,639	1,511	1,511

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1895 ...	742	723	632	612
1896 ...	719	678	552	567
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520
1899 ...	759	716	548	560

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipal Boards have no power to borrow money.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1898.	1899.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	1,200	1,303
Bags and sugar-mats	7,145	7,424
Beer	2,872	2,905
Books	779	1,080
Boots and shoes	3,009	3,549
Breadstuffs and biscuits	22,366	17,553
Butter	3,403	4,279
Coal...	11,954	10,082
Cordage	1,279	1,724
Cutlery	1,403	1,640
Drapery	45,134	55,082
Drugs	2,805	2,770
Fish...	1,966	2,908
Furniture	1,189	1,660
Galvanised iron and goods	3,448	7,080
Glassware and crockery	1,820	1,571
Hardware	14,776	13,916
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	2,502	8,012

(A.) Imports and Exports—*cont.*

Nature of Import.	1898.	1899.
	£	£
Jewellery	1,445	1,628
Leatherware	1,708	2,007
Live stock	5,607	8,292
Machinery	4,082	15,477
Machinery—agricultural	1,586	2,068
Manure	4,156	3,574
Meats	9,302	9,699
Oils	6,591	7,365
Pickles and oilstores	936	515
Paints	1,482	1,856
Produce	2,119	609
Rice	8,730	6,041
Ship chandlery	1,427	1,405
Soap	637	724
Spirits	3,180	3,837
Stationery	2,571	2,241
Sugar	2,663	2,456
Timber	5,262	5,402
Tobacco	1,923	2,356
Vegetables and green fruit	3,880	2,323
Wines	1,264	1,458
Woodenware	530	901

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1895	241,759	332,209
1896	242,492	435,342
1897	248,748	431,860
1898	234,850	534,105
1899	263,044	481,856

The bulk of the goods imported into this Colony come from Sydney and there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture. The Customs Department report that, as far as can be ascertained, there has been a slight falling off in the importation of goods of foreign manufacture.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit. The quantity and value of these exports during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1895	23,210	208,889	9,244	79,726	20,987	—	—
1896	27,334	336,929	5,487	48,950	18,488	78,890	10,163
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,473	111,088	13,886
1899	28,403	340,602	7,228	73,421	30,606	132,440	16,343

The decrease in the total value of exports for 1899 as compared with 1898 is accounted for by the falling off in the export of sugar. This is due in part to the wet season, and also to the fact that some 2,500 tons of sugar were awaiting shipment at the end of the year.

The export of copra for 1899 is greater than 1898 by 754 tons, but is less than 1897 by 527 tons. The 1899 crop, however, exceeds that of any previous year, as, owing to the scarcity of shipping, there were some 3,200 tons more copra awaiting shipment at the end of 1899 than at the end of 1898. The 1899 crop may therefore be set down at from 10,000 to 11,000 tons.

The export of green fruit, chiefly bananas, is increasing. Large areas have been planted by natives under agreement.

(B.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

There are at present at work in the Colony five sugar mills, with a nominal daily output of 204 tons of dried sugar; one tea factory, with a nominal daily output of 400 lbs. of dried tea; 16 boatbuilding yards; two soapworks; and two sawmills.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The cultivation of sugar forms the principal agricultural industry of the Colony. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., owning three mills in this Colony, are the largest producers. A fourth mill will shortly be erected by this company. Land has been leased and active operations commenced. The total area of the land under cane cultivation is estimated at 23,160 acres, from which were produced 301,691 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the cultivation of sugar cane by Fijians during 1899:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	464	6,962	4,063
Labasa	147	1,465	748
Ra	32	876	423
Ba	120	1,695	822
Navua	87	728	360

An important feature in the sugar industry is the cultivation of cane by Indian coolies who have completed their term of indenture. At Rewa they cultivated, during 1899, 962 acres, producing 17,213 tons of cane, valued at £9,097. At Navua they cultivated, during the same period, 1,348 acres, producing 19,680 tons of cane, valued at £10,395.

As stated in the Blue Book Report for 1898, some 4,000 acres of land were acquired in 1898 for lease to Indian immigrants whose terms of indenture have expired, with a view to inducing them to remain in the Colony. During 1899 two additional blocks were acquired, one in the Labasa district, containing 1,061 acres, and the other in the Navua district, containing 268 acres of land, suitable for cane cultivation. Of the Labasa block, 320 acres have been leased, there being 136 lessees. About 90 per cent. of the cultivation is rice, the remainder being maize, vegetables, &c. The lessees have the use, in common, of grazing land for their cattle, upon payment of agistment. They own some 275 head of cattle.

There is a botanic station at Suva, from which economic plants are supplied to planters free of cost. During 1899 the following were among the plants so issued:—3,580 cacao plants, 1,386 vanilla plants, 674 coffee plants.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The total area of Crown land is small, not exceeding 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 423,999 acres. Seven Crown grants were issued during the year, aggregating 2,017 acres. Land may be leased from the native owners, through the Crown. The annual rental varies from 3*s*. to 15*s*. per acre.

(E.) Shipping.

The following statement shows the number, tonnage, and nationality of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of entry during the years 1898 and 1899:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1898.		1899.		1898.		1899.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	Steam	103	126,228	96	115,237	104	125,653	94	113,992
"	Sailing	12	3,074	19	5,679	12	2,922	18	5,677
American	"	2	680	2	553	2	680	2	553
German	"	1	468	2	1,881	1	468	4	3,353
Norwegian	"	7	2,857	8	4,685	6	2,599	4	2,325
Russian	"	1	399	—	—	1	399	—	—
Tongan	"	1	46	2	92	1	46	2	92
Danish	"	—	—	1	664	—	—	1	664

The total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1895	118,533	116,869	233,402
1896	115,470	115,586	231,056
1897	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519
1899	128,791	126,656	255,447

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1899:—

II. Gambling Ordinance.—Repeals the previous enactment (Ordinance No. IX. of 1897), which did not define the term "gaming house" with sufficient clearness.

III. Pearlshell Ordinance.—Prohibits the removal and exportation of immature and undersized pearlshell. Authority is given to the Governor-in-Council to prohibit the fishing for pearlshell for any term throughout the whole Colony or any part thereof.

IV. Matrimonial Causes Ordinance.—Enacts the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1884, of England.

V. Marine Board Ordinance.—Brings the practice in the courts of this Colony into conformity with the general practice laid down in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

VI. Appeals Ordinance.—This Ordinance was much wanted, as the old law relating to appeals from magistrates' courts was somewhat imperfect. The appealable amount has been reduced from £5 to £3.

VII. Lepers Ordinance.—Provides for the establishment of leper asylums and the segregation of lepers. The Ordinance does not come into force until proclaimed, and then only within such area or areas as may be named in the proclamation.

IX. Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, Amendment Ordinance.—The service of writs, summonses, and subpœnas is taken out of the hands of the Sheriff and left in the hands of the parties or their solicitors.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between six and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary English education are taught. There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva, with three teachers and 91 scholars, and one in Levuka, with two teachers and 71 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also four Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an attendance of 169.

There is a Government technical school, where 76 native youths are instructed in primary education (including English), carpentry, boatbuilding, planting, and the care of stock.

The education of the natives throughout the group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions. The former have 1,499 schools, with 2,634 teachers and 26,464 scholars. The latter have 146 schools, with 179 teachers and 1,832 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is a hospital at Suva, maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by two European nurses. During 1899 there were 1,383 patients admitted, including 75 Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £1,895 0*s*. 2*d*., and the expenditure (including the salary of the Resident Medical Officer) to £2,918 1*s*. 10*d*.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of an European warder. The Chief Medical Officer is Superintendent. There were 11 admissions and five discharges during the year, leaving 15 inmates on 31st December, 1899. Revenue, £176 0*s*. 6*d*.; expenditure, £523 12*s*. 3*d*.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of one European inspector, one European sergeant, one native inspector, two native sergeants, three native corporals, one Indian, and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above, there are the rural police, consisting of three European sergeants, 12 native sergeants, and 39 native and Indian constables, under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons There are also gaols at each of the various magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1899 was 964. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates during 1899 was 7,342. Of these 757 were offences against the person, 351 were larceny, 172 were offences against property, and 6,062 were other offences—principally breaches of the Labour Ordinances. Of the 7,342 offences reported, 2,170 were dismissed, 5,079 were dealt with summarily, and 93 were committed to the Supreme Court. During the year nine persons were sentenced to death for murder. In three cases the sentence was commuted to penal servitude.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1899, compared with the 1891 census returns:—

Class.	Census of 5th April, 1891.			Estimate on 31st December, 1899.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,273	763	2,036	2,759	1,614	4,373
Half-castes ...	529	547	1,076	624	634	1,258
Indians	4,998	2,470	7,468	8,875	4,407	13,282
Polynesians ...	1,923	344	2,267	1,672	289	1,961
Rotumans ...	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,033	1,138	2,171
Fijians	56,445	49,355	105,800	52,354	46,124	98,478
Others	143	171	314	471	679	1,150
Totals ...	66,367	54,813	121,180	67,788	54,885	122,673

The native population has been steadily decreasing for many years. Of late years, however, the decrease has not been so heavy. For 1899 the decrease was estimated at 476, being the lowest since the census of 1891. The number of births amounted to 3,395, being at the rate of 34·48 per mille, a rate which compares very favourably with other colonies. The marriage rate per mille was 16·81, or more than double the rate of any Australian Colony, and many European countries. The number of deaths, however, amounted to 3,871, being at the rate of 39·31 per mille. The principal factor in the high death rate is the excessive mortality amongst infants. In 1899, of every 100 children born, 8·51 died before reaching the age of one month, 18·64 before reaching the age of one year. The measures now being undertaken with a view to reducing the heavy death rate are referred to under "General Observations."

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year 1899 was free from epidemic disease, though, towards the latter end, whooping-cough asserted itself among native children. Only two cases of enteric fever were recorded as occurring in the Colony. There were, however, seven cases landed from the war-ships at Samoa, and treated at the Colonial Hospital.

The European death rate is exceptionally low, as will be seen from the following table, which compares favourably with the statistics of other colonies: —

Year.	European Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1878	2,000	43	21·5
1881	2,671	45	16·84
1884	3,567	59	16·54
1887	2,105	31	14·72
1890	2,059	35	16·99
1893	2,474	25	10·1
1896	3,292	31	9·41
1897	3,401	30	8·82
1898	3,927	30	7·64
1899	4,373	26	5·94

(C.) SANITATION.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which have any system of drainage beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea. Scavenging is done on the dry-earth system. The heavy rainfall does much to preserve the health of the Colony.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year was 130 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 13 inches. The highest temperature in the shade was 93° on the 2nd March, and the lowest, 61°, on the 21st September. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The following statement contains the particulars for 1899 of the postal service of the Colony:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	267,910	9,066	10,565	77,498	56,407	421,446
Newspapers ...	163,077	34,711	3,343	96,576	11,007	308,714
Book packets, samples and circulars.	30,570	4,131	1,123	13,619	4,136	53,579
Parcels	—	369	50	729	130	1,278
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
*Including Registered	6,368	5,520

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during 1899:—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	615 7 8	199 12 5
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	2,560 9 3	431 6 9
Total ... ... £	3,175 16 11	630 19 2

A telephone line has been constructed from Suva to Ba, a distance of 120 miles.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(C.) Volunteers.

There is a volunteer force in the Colony, numbering 208 officers and men.

(D.) Constabulary.

In addition to the above-mentioned force there is a body of armed native constabulary, numbering 122 officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Means of Communication.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere. Attention has lately been given to the making of roads and bridging of rivers and creeks throughout the Colony. A properly metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, is now in course of construction.

Owing to the insular nature of the Colony the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication, by steam launches, between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a bi-weekly service from Suva to Levuka, and weekly to Ba. Communication between the various islands is maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 174 small sailing vessels, of which 104 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

The demand for labour on plantations has been met by the introduction of Indian coolies. During 1899, 931 Indian immigrants arrived in the Colony and 361 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 13,282 Indians in the Colony, of whom 4,920 are serving their first indenture. The average cost of introduction varies from £17 to £23 for each adult. He is rerecruited in India, through the usual emigration agency system, and comes to Fiji for 10 years, five of which he spends in the service of his original requisitioner, and the second five as a free man, working where and how he pleases. At the end of 10 years he becomes entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of the general revenue of the Colony.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on public works during 1899 (exclusive of establishments) amounted to £12,972 15*s.* 9*d.* In addition to this a sum of £9,559 9*s.* 2*d.* was expended from a deposit of £11,700 made in 1898, making a total expenditure of £22,532 4*s.* 11*d.* This amount was expended as follows:—Maintaining and constructing Government buildings, £3,515; sea-wall, Levuka, £400; telephone line from Suva to Ba, £120; extension and repairs Suva water supply, £584; Rewa delta water supply, £11,094; water supplies to various native towns, £661; construction of new roads, £3,409; bridges, £1,978; wharfs, £342. The principal work undertaken during the year was the supplying of water to the native towns on the Rewa delta. Water is conveyed a distance of four and three-quarter miles by a six-inch pipe and is then distributed to 44 towns, with a population of 4,672. During 1900 the scheme will be extended to include 26 other towns.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

Over 96 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony is made up of the four products, sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit. The principal minor exports consist of cocoanuts, peanuts, beche-de-mer, pearlshell, maize, and vanilla. Such products as coffee, cocoa, limes, lemons, ginger, and spices do not appear on the list of exports. They can all be produced in the Colony, but the cost of labour militates against their being raised and exported at a profit.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy and not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is principally performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as skilled labourers and overseers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s*. per day; overseers, £80 to £200, with quarters.

The social condition of the native race has been somewhat improved in the last few years. In January, 1899, four provincial inspectors were appointed, each having charge of two provinces. The first duties to which these inspectors have given their attention has been the proper housing of the people, the improvement of water supplies, the proper care of infants and sick persons, and the improvement of the condition of women. It is, as yet, too early to look for substantial results in the way of staying the decrease, but much good work has been accomplished. The past year has been a most prosperous one, and it is estimated that, at a moderate computation, the natives received some £70,000 from various sources during the year.

The financial condition of the Colony is good. The Revenue for 1899 exceeded the Expenditure by £3,053 14*s*. 6*d*., and the accumulated balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1899, amounted to £20,636 0*s*. 7*d*. This sum will be available in the event of a deficiency occurring at any time, owing to a severe hurricane or other unforeseen circumstance.

A new sugar mill is being established, which should add considerably to trade. Large areas have been planted by the natives with cocoanuts, so that an increase in the export of copra may be expected in the next few years.

W. L. ALLARDYCE,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

LONDON:
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1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 331.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 296.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September 1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
307	Ceylon	1899
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia...	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899–1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda...	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas...	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 331.

FIJI.
1900.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 296.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva, Fiji,
18th June, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to state that seven copies of the Fiji Blue Book, for the year 1900, are being forwarded to you per book post by this mail, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN,
Governor.

Fiji, 1900.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1900.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900.

I. Financial.

A.—*General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statement shows the amount of Revenue received, under the various heads, for the years 1900 and 1899:—

Head of Revenue.	1900.			1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	65,932	11	5	52,631	7	0
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	4,785	13	4	4,221	3	5
Native Taxes	19,295	3	6	20 767	11	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	8,646	12	3	7,889	4	5
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	8,325	4	7	8,351	11	11
Post Office	2,679	10	2	2,547	2	6
Rent of Government Property ...	491	2	9	577	1	3
Interest	177	16	4	300	0	0
Miscellaneous Receipts...	1,209	19	2	1,058	13	8
	111,543	13	6	98,343	15	8
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	25	4	3	277	12	0
Total ... ... £	111,568	17	9	98,621	7	8

Fiji,
1900.

The following is a statement of the Expenditure for the years 1900 and 1899, under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	1900.			1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,301	10	1	9,281	5	1
Pensions	2,195	17	8	2,020	7	0
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,713	16	4	2,673	14	7
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,450	6	6	1,419	5	6
Government Printing Office	1,510	9	2	1,529	6	8
Audit Department	682	5	11	688	6	7
Postal Department	1,192	3	1	2,045	17	6
Provincial Department	7,425	8	4	7,556	0	11
Treasury...	3,540	2	6	3,560	4	6
Customs Department	2,916	6	0	2,716	5	11
Port and Marine Department... ...	1,877	7	11	1,599	8	1
Immigration Department	7,223	13	4	6,669	3	7
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	8,608	17	6	8,677	16	3
Police Department	2,956	1	7	2,918	4	4
Armed Native Constabulary	2,315	1	10	2,436	10	7
Prisons Department	3,768	17	6	3,759	11	4
Medical Department	5,697	19	11	4,706	19	3
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,716	4	4	2,935	11	6
Education	1,359	8	9	1,603	12	5
Transport	1,492	13	3	1,295	6	4
Transport—Special Repairs	—			1,068	7	5
Miscellaneous	5,905	3	9	1,683	19	1
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,652	11	7	1,749	13	0
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	2,371	16	6	1,889	10	1
	80,874	3	4	76,484	7	6
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	19,148	4	2	11,083	5	8
Deposit for Expenditure, 1900—Public Works.	—			7,000	0	0
Deposit for Expenditure, 1900—Contribution to Transvaal War Fund.	—			1,000	0	0
Total ... £	100,022	7	6	95,567	13	2

The total Revenue and Expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896	73,868 18 9	73,099 3 1
1897	74,491 16 1	73,231 11 0
1898	94,146 15 6	87,594 8 6
1899	98,621 7 8	95,567 13 2
1900	111,568 17 9	100,022 7 6

The Revenue for 1900, £111,568 17*s.* 9*d.*, stands as a record. The only previous year in which the Revenue exceeded £100,000 was 1883, when it amounted to £105,586. In that year, however, certain casual receipts were included, amounting in all to £14,702. The actual Revenue, therefore, only amounted to £90,884.

The principal increase in the Revenue is under the head of Customs, and is due to improvement in trade.

C.—*Assets and Liabilities.*

The statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1900, shows that on that date the excess of Assets over Liabilities, or the accumulated surplus to the credit of the Colony, amounted to £32,642 13*s.* 4*d.*

D.—*Public Debt.*

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1900, amounted to £200,535 16*s.* 6*d.* Of this amount, £94,435 16*s.* 6*d.* is an advance, without interest, from Imperial Funds, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder consists of £106,100 Debentures, bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these Debentures. The interest on Debentures as redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1900 the Public Debt was reduced by £4,540 5*s.* 1*d.*

E.—*Currency.*

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, at Suva and Levuka.

F.—*Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statements show the Revenue and Expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1896 ...	1,680	1,506	1,238	1,129
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976
1899 ...	1,710	1,639	1,511	1,511
1900 ...	1,644	1,529	1,627	1,606

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1896 ...	719	678	552	567
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520
1899 ...	759	716	548	560
1900 ...	719	681	559	557

G.—*Debts of Municipalities.*

The Municipal Boards have no power to borrow money.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—*Imports and Exports.*

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1899.	1900.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	1,303	1,523
Bags and sugar-mats	7,424	8,586
Beer	2,905	3,240
Books	1,080	1,051
Boots and shoes	3,549	4,185
Breadstuffs and biscuits	17,553	21,902
Butter and ghee	4,279	5,982
Coal	10,082	8,802
Cordage	1,724	2,278
Cutlery	1,640	3,019
Drapery	55,082	67,257
Drugs	2,770	4,121
Fish	2,908	2,787
Furniture	1,660	2,727
Galvanised iron and goods	7,080	11,823
Glassware and crockery	1,571	2,459
Hardware	13,916	23,277
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	8,012	10,385
Jewellery	1,628	2,236
Leatherware	2,007	3,328
Live stock	8,292	23,358

A.—*Imports and Exports.*—cont.

Nature of Import.	1899.	1900.
	£	£
Machinery	15,477	7,996
Machinery—agricultural	2,068	2,976
Manure	3,574	4,678
Meats	9.699	11,901
Oils	7,365	10,075
Pickles and oilstores	515	694
Paints	1,856	2,349
Produce	609	1,173
Rice	6,041	9,245
Ship chandlery	1,405	2,888
Soap	724	833
Spirits	3,837	4,535
Stationery	2,241	3,049
Sugar	2,456	1,503
Timber	5,402	15,234
Tobacco	2,356	2,703
Vegetables and green fruit	2,323	2,966
Wines	1,458	2,080
Woodenware	901	1,564

Most of the items in the above list show increases over the year 1899, notably breadstuffs and biscuits, £4,349; drapery, £12,175; galvanised iron and goods, £4,743; hardware, £9,361; live stock, £15,066; oils, £2,710; rice, £3,204; timber, £9,832.

The increase in breadstuffs and drapery show an improved spending power by the natives; the increase in live stock was caused by a large importation of mules for the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1896	242,492	435,342
1897	248,748	431,860
1898	234,850	534,105
1899	263,044	481,856
1900	349,890	619,836

The bulk of the goods imported into this Colony come from Sydney, and there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture. There is a falling off in the importation of timber and canned fruits from the United States, the tendency being to import these goods from Canada and Australia respectively.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit. The quantity and value of these exports during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1896	27,334	336,929	5,487	48,950	18,488	78,890	10,163
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886
1899	28,403	340,602	7,228	73,421	30,606	132,440	16,343
1900	32,961	393,987	15,605	151,701	28,112	158,224	28,839

The total value of the exports for 1900 exceeds that of 1899 by £137,980. Prior to 1900 the highest total reached by the exports was in 1894, when they amounted to £581,652.

The large increase in the export of copra is due partly to the fact that, owing to the scarcity of shipping, there was a considerable quantity of copra produced in 1899 but not exported till 1900. After making allowance for this factor, the quantity of copra produced in 1900 amounts to some 13,185 tons, which is a large increase on any previous year. This increase is due, in conjunction with a good season, to increased native production, a result of the measures recently initiated by Government for the betterment of the Fijians. Large quantities of cocoanuts, which were formerly left to rot on the ground, are now made into copra by the natives.

B.—*Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.*

There are at present at work in the Colony five sugar mills, with a nominal daily output of 204 tons of dried sugar; one tea factory, with a capacity of a daily output of 400 lbs. of dried tea; twelve boat-building yards; one soapwork; and four sawmills.

C.—*Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.*

The cultivation of sugar forms the principal agricultural industry of the Colony. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., owning three mills in this Colony, are the largest producers. A fourth mill will shortly be erected by this Company at Lautoka, in the Island of Viti Levu, where land has been leased and is now being brought under cultivation. In the Labasa district the experiment of growing sugar cane on reclaimed mangrove swamps is being tried. The process of reclamation costs, on an average, something over £10 an acre, but the prospects of a return have been deemed sufficiently promising by the Company to warrant its making the experiment with a large area which has been leased to it at a peppercorn rent. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 19,376 acres, from which were produced 280,213 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the cultivation of sugar cane by Fijians during 1900:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	532	9,633	4,828
Labasa	147	723	348
Ba	60	1,317	779
Ra	99	2,034	929
Navua	95	1,740	548

An important feature in the sugar industry is the cultivation of cane by Indian coolies who have completed their term of indenture. At Rewa they cultivated, during 1900, 1,077 acres, producing 18,399 tons of cane, valued at £9,473. At Navua they cultivated, during the same period, 1,921 acres, producing 24,087 tons of cane, valued at £12,516.

During the last three years Government has acquired, under the Settlements Fund, certain blocks of land, aggregating 6,790 acres, which have been divided into small holdings, and considerable areas have now been leased at a nominal rent to Indian immigrants whose terms of indenture have expired with a view to inducing them to remain in the country. The annual rental at present obtained from the blocks leased aggregate £234. These monies are retained for the purchase of additional blocks in other suitable localities. In the Labasa district some 525 acres are leased to 173 lessees, who cultivate rice, maize, tobacco, and vegetables. The lessees have the use, in common, of grazing land for their cattle, upon payment of agistment. They own some 520 head of cattle.

There is a botanic station at Suva, from which economic plants are supplied to planters free of cost. During 1900, the following were among the plants so issued:—

3,097 cacao plants, 1,500 coffee plants, 1,100 vanilla plants, 300 allspice plants, 236 clove plants.

D.—*Land Grants and General Value of Land.*

The total area of Crown land is small, not exceeding 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown Grant is 424,149 acres. One Crown Grant was issued during the year for 150 acres. Land may be leased from the native owners, through the Crown. The annual rental varies from 3*s.* to 15*s.* per acre.

E.—*Shipping.*

The following statement shows the number, tonnage, and nationality of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of entry during the years 1899 and 1900:—

Fiji, 1900.

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1899.		1900.		1899.		1900.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	Steam	96	115,237	75	76,332	94	113,992	72	73,826
"	Sailing	19	5,679	17	8,956	18	5,677	14	8,039
American	"	2	553	3	1,191	2	553	3	1,191
German	"	2	1,881	1	777	4	3,353	1	777
Norwegian	"	8	4,685	15	9,171	4	2,325	16	9,596
Tongan	"	2	92	1	46	2	92	1	46
Danish	"	1	664	—	—	1	664	—	—
Italian	"	—	—	1	436	—	—	1	436

The total Shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years, is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total
1896	115,470	115,586	231,056
1897	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519
1899	128,791	126,656	255,447
1900	96,909	93,911	190,820

III. LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1900:—

II. Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1875, Amendment Ordinance. Provides that persons included in any Assessors' List may also be included in any List of Jurors. It has been found that after the Assessors' List had been prepared a very poor Jury List was left.

III. Whipping Ordinance. Introduced by direction of the Secretary of State. Limits the number of strokes which may be ordered to twenty-four.

IV. Census Ordinance. Makes provision for the taking of a Census of the Colony on 31st March, 1901.

VI. Customs Duties Ordinance, 1898, Amendment Ordinance. Exempts from duty oils imported as fuel for oil engines. It is expected that this concession will be of great benefit to interinsular trade.

IV. EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the School Fund of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor-in-Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The subjects of an ordinary English education are taught. There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva, with three teachers and 116 scholars, and one in Levuka, with two teachers and 69 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an attendance of 139.

The education of the natives throughout the group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,453 schools, with 2,977 teachers and 25,610 scholars. The latter have 157 schools, with 191 teachers and 1,825 scholars.

V. Government Institutions.

A.—*Hospitals.*

There is a hospital at Suva maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by two European nurses. During 1900 there were 1,322 patients admitted, including 85 Europeans. The Revenue for the year amounted to £2,211 3*s*. 2*d*., and the Expenditure (including the salary of the Resident Medical Officer) to £2,874 9*s*. 11*d*.

There are also five provincial hospitals, to which reference is made under the head of "General Observations."

B.—*Asylums.*

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of an European warder. The Chief Medical Officer is Superintendent. There were nine admissions and five discharges and six deaths during the year, leaving 13 inmates on 31st December, 1900. Revenue, £189 13*s* 9*d*.; Expenditure, £491 14*s*. 5*d*.

VI. Judicial Statistics.

A.—*Police.*

The Police Force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of one European Inspector, one European Sergeant, one Native Inspector, two Native Sergeants, three Native Corporals, one Indian and 24 Native Constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the Rural Police, consisting of three European Sergeants, 13 Native Sergeants, and 32 Native and Indian Constables, under the control of the Magistrates in the various districts.

B.—*Prisons.*

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There are also gaols at each of the various Magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and, in the case of certain adjacent districts, one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1900 was 946. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

C.—*Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the Police and Magistrates during 1900 was 8,799. Of these 708 were offences against the person, 387 were larceny, 148 were offences against property, and 7,556 were other offences—principally breaches of the Labour Ordinances by Indian immigrants. Of the 8,799 cases reported, 2,969 were dismissed, 5,776 were dealt with summarily, and 54 were committed to the Supreme Court. During the year two persons were sentenced to death for murder.

VII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1900, compared with the 1891 census returns:—

Class.	Census of 5th April, 1891.			Estimate on 31st December, 1901.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,273	763	2,036	2,841	1,681	4,522
Half-castes ...	529	547	1,076	656	652	1,308
Indians	4,998	2,470	7,468	10,630	4,737	15,367
Polynesians ...	1,923	344	2,267	1,638	284	1,922
Rotumans ...	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,044	1,148	2,192
Fijians	56,445	49,355	105,800	51,993	45,716	97,709
Others	143	171	314	510	700	1,210
Totals ...	66,367	54,813	121,180	69,312	54,918	124,230

The above figures show a large decrease in the native population. For 1900 the decrease was estimated at 769, the number of births during the year being 3,616, while the deaths numbered 4,385. The birth rate, 37 per mille, and the marriage rate, 14·17 per mille, compare favourably with those of other Colonies. The death rate, however, was 44·87 per mille. The principal factor of the high death rate is the excessive mortality amongst infants. The measures which have been undertaken with a view to reducing the heavy death rate are referred to under the head of "General Observations."

B.—*Public Health.*

Epidemics of influenza and dengue fever occurred throughout the year, and, in conjunction with whooping-cough, were responsible for the high mortality amongst native children. The occurrence of bubonic plague in New South Wales and New Caledonia necessitated the enforcing of strict quarantine regulations. Measures were also taken for improving sanitary conditions and destroying rats. The total cost of quarantine and plague precautions amounted to £4,439, including the erection of the necessary quarantine and isolation buildings, and the purchase of two punts, an oil-engine launch, and a fumigator.

The European death rate is exceptionally low, as will be seen from the following table, which compares favourably with the statistics of other Colonies:—

Year.	European Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1878	2,000	43	21·5
1881	2,671	45	16·84
1884	3,567	59	16·54
1887	2,105	31	14·72
1890	2,059	35	16·99
1893	2,474	25	10·1
1896	3,292	31	9·41
1897	3,401	30	8·82
1898	3,927	30	7·64
1899	4,373	26	5·94
1900	4,522	28	6·19

C.—*Sanitation.*

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which have any system of drainage, beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea. Scavenging is done on the dry-earth system. The heavy rainfall does much to preserve the health of the Colony.

D.—*Climate.*

The total rainfall for the year was 89·87 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 6·35 inches. The highest temperature in the shade was 93 on the 5th February and the lowest 59·9 on the 20th June. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII. POSTAL.

Telegraph and Telephone Service.

The following statement contains the particulars for 1900 of the Postal Service of the Colony:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	283,370	9,199	7,773	73,542	56,405	430,289
Newspapers ...	180,553	35,417	2,698	107,517	10,832	337,017
Book packets, samples and circulars.	33,853	4,365	818	14,600	4,162	57,798
Parcels	—	395	59	1,024	155	1,633
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
*Including Registered	6,490	6,422

Money Orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during 1900:—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	715 10 8	111 7 6
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	4,088 0 9	505 3 3
Total ... ... £	4,803 11 5	616 10 9

A telephone line has been constructed from Suva to Ba, a distance of 120 miles.

IX. Military Forces and Expenditure.

C.—*Volunteers.*

There is a Volunteer Force in the Colony, numbering 213 officers and men. The Expenditure on uniforms, ammunition, &c., for 1900, amounted to £243 11*s.* 11*d.*

D.—*Constabulary.*

In addition to the above-mentioned force there is a body of armed Native Constabulary, numbering 120 officers and men.

X. General Observations.

Means of Communication.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere. Attention has lately been given to the making of roads and bridging of rivers and creeks throughout the Colony. A properly metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, is now in course of construction.

Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by steam launches between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a bi-weekly service from Suva to Levuka and Ba. Communication between the various islands is maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 173 small sailing vessels, of which 105 are owned by natives.

Immigration.

The demand for labour on plantations has been met by the introduction of Indian coolies. During 1900, 2,275 Indian immigrants arrived in the Colony, and 403 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 15,367 Indians in the Colony, of whom 5,860 are serving their first indenture. The average cost of introduction varies from £17 to £23 for each adult. He is recruited in India through the usual emigration agency system, and comes to Fiji for ten years, five of which he spends in the service of his original requisitioner, and the second five as a free man, working where and how he pleases. At the end of ten years he becomes entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of the general revenue of the Colony.

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works during 1900 (exclusive of establishments) amounted to £20,409 5*s.* 11*d.* In addition to this a sum of £8,352 14*s.* 5*d.* was expended from deposits made in 1898 and 1899, making a total expenditure for the year of £28,762 0*s.* 4*d.* The principal works undertaken were:—Maintaining and constructing Government buildings, £8,390 16*s.* 7*d.* (including construction of three provincial hospitals, with doctors' quarters, £3,428 11*s.* *d.*; and Stipendiary Magistrates' and doctors' quarters, Customs House, and other buildings at the new port of Lautoka, £2,533); Rewa delta water supply (extending previous scheme to 26 towns), £5,067 13*s.* 7*d.*; water supplies to certain villages in Tailevu Province, £1,933 5*s.* 9*d.*; water supplies to various native towns, £1,235 9*s.* 11*d.*; construction of new roads, £1,681 4*s.* 9*d.*; bridges, £1,860 11*s.*; wharves, construction (the extension to Suva wharf will permit vessels drawing 27 feet to lie alongside at low water), £7,336 16*s.* 8*d.*

Future Prospects of Trade.

In 1900, the four products, sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit, made up over 98 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. The principal minor exports are peanuts, beche-de-mer, vanilla, and cocoanuts. Such products as coffee, cocoa, limes, lemons, ginger, and spices do not appear on the list of exports. They can all be produced in the Colony, but the cost of labour militates against their being raised and exported at a profit. During 1900 an area of some 115 acres has been planted with cacao. A sample of Fijian grown cocoa was valued in the London market at 75*s.* per cwt.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy, and not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is principally performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as skilled labourers and overseers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s.* per day; overseers, £80 to £200, with quarters.

With a view to improving the condition of the Fijians, four Provincial Inspectors were appointed in 1899, each having charge of two provinces. In 1900, three provincial hospitals, with doctors' quarters, were erected, and two of these are now in working order, under the charge of European Provincial Medical Officers. In addition to the above, there are two Provincial hospitals, erected at the expense of the natives, under the charge of District Medical Officers. An annual contribution is made by the natives of the provinces concerned towards the upkeep of these five hospitals. The duties to which the Provincial Inspectors have given their attention are the proper housing of the people, the improvement of water supplies, the proper care of infants and sick persons, and the improvement in the condition of women. It has been found that in many cases two, and sometimes three, or even four, families were inhabiting a single house, which in Fiji invariably consists of but a single room. The first duty of the Provincial Inspectors has therefore been to secure a separate house for each married couple, and to this end 5,733 houses have been erected since 1899 in the eight provinces under their control. The amount of money which the natives have received from various sources has been largely increased latterly, and it is estimated that during 1900 they had some £140,000 at their disposal.

The Finances of the Colony are in a sound condition. After making adequate provision for public works and the repayment of loans, the Revenue for 1900 exceeded the Expenditure by £11,546 10*s.* 3*d.* The accumulated balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1900, amounted to £32,642 13*s.* 4*d.* This sum will be available in the event of a deficiency occurring at any time owing to a severe hurricane or other unforeseen cause.

W. L. ALLARDYCE,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
345	Grenada	1900
346	Northern Nigeria	900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	„
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	„
356	Falkland Islands	„
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
358	Malta	„
359	Gibraltar	„
360	Straits Settlements	„
361	Sierra Leone	„
362	British Honduras	„
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
364	Seychelles	„
365	Bahamas...	1901–1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No 366.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 331.)

ACTING GOVERNOR ALLARDYCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Suva, Fiji,
15th August, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1901 are being forwarded to you under separate cover by this mail, and to enclose herewith copy of a report thereon by Mr. Sutherland, the Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
W. L. ALLARDYCE.

12622—875—9/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1901.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1901:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received, under the various heads, for the years 1901 and 1900:—

Head of Revenue.	1901.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	66,875	10	2	65,932	11	5
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	4,853	14	10	4,785	13	4
Native Taxes	19,171	16	7	19,295	3	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	9,035	1	9	8,646	12	3
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	8,046	6	6	8,325	4	7
Post Office	3,076	8	10	2,679	10	2
Rent of Government Property ...	657	14	10	491	2	9
Interest	566	15	4	177	16	4
Miscellaneous Receipts...	1,508	19	1	1,209	19	2
	113,792	7	11	111,543	13	6
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	61	0	0	25	4	3
Total ... ... £	113,853	7	11	111,568	17	9

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1901 and 1900, under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	1901.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,285	15	1	9,301	10	1
Pensions	2,344	3	0	2,195	17	8
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,634	16	3	2,713	16	4
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,213	6	1	1,450	6	6
Government Printing Office	1,753	8	2	1,510	9	2
Audit Department	700	19	1	682	5	11
Postal Department	1,217	4	0	1,192	3	1
Provincial Department	6,985	0	11	7,425	8	4
Treasury...	3,768	8	11	3,540	2	6
Customs Department	3,138	2	11	2,916	6	0
Port and Marine Department... ...	1,862	19	3	1,877	7	11
Carried forward ...						

Expenditure—cont.

Head of Expenditure.	1901. £	s	d.	1900. £	s.	d.
Brought forward ...						
Immigration Department	7,997	4	11	7,223	13	4
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	9,171	7	7	8,608	17	6
Police Department	2,976	16	10	2,956	1	7
Armed Native Constabulary	2,686	7	9	2,315	1	10
Prisons Department	3,473	15	8	3,763	17	6
Medical Department	7,311	10	3	5,697	19	11
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,866	15	11	2,716	4	4
Education	1,007	8	0	1,359	8	9
Transport	1,607	13	5	1,492	13	3
Miscellaneous	1,815	1	2	5,905	3	9
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,711	9	6	1,652	11	7
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	7,286	13	9	2,371	16	6
	84,816	8	5	80,874	3	4
Public Works Extraordinary	20,156	17	10	19,148	4	2
Total	104,973	6	3	100,022	7	6

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1897	74,491	16	1	73,231	11	0
1898	94,146	15	6	87,594	8	6
1899	98,621	7	8	95,567	13	2
1900	111,568	17	9	100,022	7	6
1901	113,853	7	11	104,973	6	3

The revenue for 1901, viz., £113,853 7*s.* 11*d.*, again shows an increase over that of all previous years. It exceeds that of 1900 by £2,284 10*s.* 2*d.*

It is satisfactory to note that the increase is chiefly due to the Customs and Postal Departments, and may, therefore, be regarded as indicative of growing commercial activity.

(B.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1901, shows that on that date the excess of assets over liabilities, or the accumulated surplus to the credit of the Colony, amounted to £41,491 12*s.* 9*d.*

(C.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1901, amounted to £196,095 11*s.* 5*d.* Of this amount, £93,395 11*s.* 5*d.* is an advance, without interest, from Imperial funds, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder consists of £102,700 debentures, bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the Debt. During 1901 the Public Debt was reduced by £4,440 5*s.* 1*d.*

(D.) CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. There is no Government note issue.

The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales has recently opened a branch in the Colony at Suva.

(E.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards, and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976
1899 ...	1,710	1,639	1,511	1,511
1900 ...	1,644	1,529	1,627	1,606
1901 ...	1,994	2,095	2,035	1,963

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520
1899 ...	759	716	548	560
1900 ...	719	681	559	557
1901 ...	758	809	768	757

(F.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipal Boards have no power to borrow money.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	1.523	1,526
Beer	3,240	3,188
Boots and shoes	4,185	3,968
Breadstuffs and biscuits	21,902	22,197
Butter and ghee	5,982	6,618
Cement	1,159	2,920
Coals	8,802	13,064
Cutlery	3,019	2,583
Drapery	67,257	61,554
Drugs	4,158	4,153
Fish	2,787	3,651
Furniture	2,727	2,254
Galvanised iron and goods	12,014	10,180
Glassware and crockery	2,459	2,584
Hardware	23,277	29,470
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	10,385	15,322
Jewellery	2,236	2,400
Leatherware	3,328	2,811
Live stock	23,358	6,390
Machinery	7,996	6,926
Machinery—agricultural	2,976	6,697
Manure	4,678	4,555
Meats	11,901	11.490
Oils	10,075	10,743
Pickles and oilstores	694	733
Paints	2,349	2,400
Produce	1,173	1,710
Rice	9,245	8,585
Ship chandlery	2,888	3,948
Spirits	4,535	5,414
Stationery	3,049	3,222
Sugar	1,503	1,361
Timber	15,234	17,123
Tobacco	2,703	2,963
Vegetables and green fruit	2,966	3,850
Wines	1,680	1,816

Among the items showing the largest increases, the following may be noted—cement, £1,761; coals, £4,262; fish, £864;

hardware, £6,193; iron goods, £4,937; agricultural machinery, £4,721; ship chandlery, £1,060; timber, £1,889.

On several lines decreases are shown, but the only item calling for special note is that of live stock, which has fallen off to the extent of £16,967. This is explained by the fact that in 1900 a special shipment of mules valued at some £20,000 was made from America by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and swelled the figures under this head far above the normal standard.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1897	248,748	431,860
1898	234,850	534,105
1899	263,044	481,856
1900	349,890	619,836
1901	351,183	548,805

The quantity and value of the staple products of the Colony exported during the past five years are given in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886
1899	28,403	340,602	7,228	73,421	30,606	132,440	16,343
1900	32,961	393,987	15,605	151,701	28,112	158,224	20.009
1901	31,751	380,155	10,626	107,372	23,175	137,937	17,232

There has been a decrease in the total value of exports of some £70,000. The lines of produce chiefly accountable for this are copra, £44,329; sugar, £13,832; green fruit, £4,937; and Colonial distilled spirits, £2,777.

Copra, however, through heavy stocks carried forward from 1899, increased the exports for 1900 to an abnormal extent, so that the quantity exported in 1901, *i.e.*, 10,626 tons, may be taken as approximately the present annual output of the Colony.

The falling off in green fruit may be ascribed to the detrimental effect of the Commonwealth Tariff, which for some months imposed a duty of 2*s.* per cental on bananas, and entirely stopped the exportation to New South Wales. The duty has now been reduced by half, viz., to 1*s.* per cental, with the result that the trade has been resumed.

(B.) MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

The appended table gives the various mills, factories, &c., established in this Colony, and their nominal daily output.

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	5	204 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lbs. dried tea.
Soap factory	1	12 cwt. soap.
Tobacco factory	1	2,500 cigars.
Boatbuilding yards	10	
Saw-mills	6	

The value of pearl shell exported during the year was £927; tortoise shell, £1,152; beche-de-mer, £2,657.

The cultivation of sugar forms the principal agricultural industry of the Colony. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Sydney, are the largest producers. They own three mills in the Colony. A fourth is being erected, and is expected to start crushing in 1903. It is situated at Lautoka, in the Island of Vitilevu, about 20 miles from the same company's Ba Mill, and the large areas of land in its vicinity are already under cane cultivation. The experiment of cane growing on reclaimed mangrove swamp is still being extensively carried on in the Labasa District, and seems to promise very satisfactory returns.

The total area of land in the Colony under cane cultivation is estimated at 27,399 acres, from which were produced 291,629 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the available particulars relative to sugar cane cultivated by natives during 1901:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	546	8,082	4,370
Labasa	191	1,418	904
Ba	122	2,406	1,581
Ra	105	972	451
Navua	42	513	214

In addition to native and European cultivation the sugar industry is extensively carried on in some districts by time-expired Indian immigrants who have settled on small holdings in the vicinity of sugar mills. In the Rewa District during 1901 they cultivated 1,046 acres, producing 17,292 tons of cane valued at £9,281, and at Navua an aggregate area of 2,427 acres, from which 32,555 tons, valued at £17,458, were cut.

The lands acquired by the Crown under the Settlements Fund for the settling of Indian immigrants who have completed their term of indenture now comprise some 7,000 acres. At Labasa, in particular, these lands are eagerly taken up by the Indian labourers from the adjacent sugar estates as soon as their terms of service have expired. They cultivate rice, maize, tobacco, and vegetables. A large number of cattle are owned by them, and they supply the Europeans as well as their own countrymen with fresh milk.

The Botanic Station at Suva was enriched during 1901 by several importations of tropical seeds and plants for purposes of propagation and distribution. Some 9,000 plants were supplied free of charge to planters and others during the year. Amongst them were the following:—

Plants.	No.
Cacao plants	6,389
Coffee „	224
Vanilla „	1,605
Allspice „	226
Clove „	43

Several varieties of rubber are now being raised in the nurseries.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The total area of Crown land does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 424,129 acres. Land is extensively leased to European and other settlers by the native owners through the Government. Every facility is afforded by the latter towards the opening up and utilisation of such lands as are not occupied or actually required by the native owners. The annual rental varies from 3*s*. to £1 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table represents the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of entry during the years 1900 and 1901:—

Vessels Entered and Cleared.

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1900.		1901.		1900.		1901.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	75	76,332	81	91,170	72	73,826	80	86,694
" ...	Sailing	17	8,956	15	2,081	14	8,039	14	2,058
American		3	1,191	3	1,289	3	1,191	3	1,289
German ...		1	777	—	—	1	777	—	—
Norwegian		15	9,171	16	10,547	16	9,596	14	8,941
Tongan ...		1	46	1	16	1	46	—	—
Danish ...		—	—	1	608	—	—	1	608
Italian ...		1	436	—	—	1	436	—	—

The total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1897	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519
1899	128,791	126,656	255,447
1900	96,909	93,911	190,820
1901	105,711	99,590	205,301

III.—LEGISLATION.

The only special legislation enacted during 1901 was Ordinance No. II. "To make further Provision for the Peace and Good Order of the Colony." For the present, however, action under this Ordinance has been deferred.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present, only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor-in-Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant.

Education is free to children within the school districts between 6 and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary English education are taught. There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with three teachers and 103 scholars, and one in Levuka with two teachers and 76 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an attendance of 220.

The education of the natives throughout the group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,411 schools, with 2,598 teachers, and 23,301 scholars; the latter have 160 schools, with 198 teachers, and 1,849 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There is a hospital at Suva maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by four European nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1901 there were 1,167 patients admitted, including 93 Europeans.

The revenue for the year amounted to £2,190 3*s.* 0*d.*, and the expenditure (including the salary of the Resident Medical Officer) to £2,870 3*s.* 8*d.*

There are also five provincial hospitals, to which reference is made under the head of "General Observations."

(B.) Asylums.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The chief medical officer is superintendent. There were 10 admissions and two discharges and one death during the year, leaving 20 inmates on 31st December, 1901. Revenue, £125 9*s.* 9*d.*; expenditure, £559 3*s.* 7*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

The Police Force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of two European inspectors, three native sergeants, three native corporals, one Indian and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above, there are the rural police, consisting of three European sergeants, 13 native sergeants, and 45 native and Indian constables, under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There are also gaols at each of the various magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and, in the case of certain adjacent districts, one month, are sent to Suva Gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1901 was 887. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates during 1901 was 8,216. Of these, 875 were offences against the person, 520 were larceny, 168 were offences against property, and 6,653 were other offences, principally breaches of the Labour Ordinance by Indian immigrants. Of the 8,216 cases reported, 2,410 were dismissed, 5,729 were dealt with summarily, and 77 were committed to the Supreme Court. During the year seven persons were sentenced to death for murder.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1901, compared with the 1901 Census returns:—

—	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1901.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	1,545	946	2,491
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	778	754	1,532
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	12,259	6,198	18,457
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,603	360	1,963
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,021	1,174	2,195
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	49,998	43,840	93,838
Others	254	213	467	254	217	471
Totals ...	66,874	53,250	120,124	67,458	53,489	120,947

The above figures show a large decrease in the native population. For 1901 the decrease was estimated at 896, the number of births during the year being 3,362, while the deaths numbered 4,258. The birth rate was 33·69 per mille, the marriage rate was 12·41 per mille, and the death rate 55·92 per mille.

The high death rate is still unfortunately traceable to the abnormal infant mortality among the natives.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony has been good. Influenza and dengue fever were common at certain seasons, but no serious epidemic or infectious disease has been prevalent. The most careful precautions have been taken to prevent the introduction of bubonic plague from Australia or New Zealand, and quarantine regulations have been strictly enforced where necessary. The measures instituted for the destruction of rats were sustained.

A new leproserie for the segregation of lepers has been erected on the Island of Beqa.

The European population at 31st December, 1901, is estimated at 2,491. The deaths during the year numbered 30, which is at the rate of 12·4 per mille.

Fiji compares favourably with other tropical countries in this respect, inasmuch as the rate is exceptionally low, and the Colony may be regarded as one of the most healthy in the tropics.

(C.) SANITATION.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which has any system of drainage beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea. Scavenging is done on the dry-earth system. The heavy rainfall does much to preserve the health of the Colony.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year was 119·07 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 8·23 inches on the 16th February. The highest temperature in the shade was 94·2° on the 23rd January, and the lowest 61·0° on the 3rd September. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The following statement contains the particulars for 1901 of the postal service of the Colony:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	293,292	9,341	7,819	75,133	59,899	445,484
Newspapers ...	180,899	32,000	3,481	107,976	13,841	338,197
Book packets, samples and circulars	34,089	4,581	955	14,850	4,148	58,623
Parcels	—	400	74	2,107	207	2,788
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Despatched.	Received.
*Including Registered	7,121	6,737

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during 1901:—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom	974 4 7	192 4 10
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	4,906 17 6	693 13 3
Total ... ... £	5,881 2 1	885 18 1

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) VOLUNTEERS.

There is a Volunteer Force in the Colony, numbering 187 officers and men. The expenditure on uniforms, ammunition, &c., for 1901 amounted to £391 7*s.* 8*d.*, as against £243 11*s.* 11*d.* in 1900.

(B.) CONSTABULARY.

In addition to the above-mentioned force, there is a body of armed native constabulary, numbering 118 officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere Considerable attention has lately been given to the making of roads and bridging of rivers and creeks throughout the Colony. A metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, is now open and has been largely used by the travelling public. This road connects with other roads on the left bank of the river by means of a pontoon ferry.

Owing to the insular nature of the Colony the principal means of communication is of necessity by water. There is daily communication by steam launches between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service from Suva to Levuka and Ba. Communication between the various islands is maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 161 small sailing vessels, of which 94 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1901, 2,420 Indian immigrants were introduced into the Colony, and 515 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 18,459 Indians in the Colony, of whom 7,033 are serving their first indenture. The cost of introduction per adult in 1901 was estimated at £14 10*s.*, but the actual cost was only £12 17*s.* 10½*d.*, a lower figure than any previous year. The labourer is recruited in India, through the usual emigration agency system, and comes to Fiji for 10 years, five of which he spends in the service of his original requisitioner, and the second five as a free man, working where and how he pleases. At the end of 10 years he becomes entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of the general revenue of the Colony.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on public works during 1901 (exclusive of establishments) amounted to £27,443 11*s.* 7*d.* In addition to this, a sum of £5,027 1*s.* 5*d.* was expended from deposits made in 1889 and 1900, making a total expenditure for the year of £32,470 13*s.* The principal works undertaken were—maintaining and constructing Government buildings, £7,272 11*s.* 8*d.*; water supplies, £4,013 5*s.* 4*d.*; new roads, £2,180 18*s.* 8*d.*; bridges, £2,834 8*s.* 3*d.*; renewing and repairing wharfs, £3,754 0*s.* 2*d.*; lighthouses, £2,709 12*s.* 3*d.*

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

In 1901 the four products, sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit, made up over 97 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. The principal minor exports are, cocoanuts, peanuts, bêche-de-mer, pearl, shell, maize, turtle shell, and vanilla. Such products as coffee, cocoa, limes, lemons, ginger, and spices, do not appear at present on the list of exports, but they can all be grown in the Colony, and planters have lately been turning their attention to some of these products, which may shortly be expected to figure on the export list.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy and not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is principally performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as skilled labourers and overseers.

The following are the average rates of wages—carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s.* per day; overseers, £80 to £200 per annum, with quarters.

With a view to improving the condition of the Fijians, four provincial inspectors were appointed in 1899, each having charge of two provinces. In 1900, two provincial hospitals, with doctors' quarters, were erected, and are now in working order, and a third was established in 1901 These are under the charge of European provincial medical officers. In addition to the above, there are two provincial hospitals erected at the expense of the natives under the charge of district medical officers. A small annual contribution is made by the natives of the provinces concerned towards the upkeep of these five hospitals. The duties to which the provincial inspectors have given their attention are the proper housing of the people, the improvement of water supplies, the proper care of infants and sick persons, and the improvement in the condition of women. The overcrowding in houses, so common in many provinces, has been greatly diminished, but much still remains to be done in this direction. The first duty of the provincial inspectors has, therefore, been to secure a separate house for each married couple, and to this end 5,733 houses were erected between 1899 and 1900, and 4,795 during 1901, in the eight provinces under their control.

The amount of money which the natives have received from various sources has been considerable of late years, and it is estimated that during 1901 they had some £120,000 at their disposal.

The sound condition of the finances of the Colony has been fully sustained. After making adequate provision for public works and the repayment of loans, the revenue for 1901 exceeded the expenditure by £8,880 1*s.* 8*d.* The accumulated balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1901, amounted to £41,491 12*s.* 9*d.* This sum may be regarded as an insurance in the event of a recurrence of hurricane or other similar disaster.

WM. SUTHERLAND,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 399.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 366.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1903.

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1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901–1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda...	1902
384	St. Lucia...	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar...	"
388	Weihaiwei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902–1903

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla...	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.

No. 399.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1901 *see* No. 366.)

GOVERNOR SIR H. M. JACKSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Suva,
14th August, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the usual copies of the Blue Book for 1902 are being forwarded under separate cover, and to attach copies of a report thereon drawn up in the Colonial Secretary's Department.

2. The Blue Book and the report show a satisfactory condition of affairs, the revenue for 1902 having exceeded that for the previous year by £18,659. The expenditure was £8,368 in excess of that for 1901, but the revenue exceeded the expenditure by £19,171.

3. The report omits any mention of Tobacco among the staple products, though it may claim an established position, a fair portion of the Native Taxes being paid in it. It does not yet form an export, though it is expected to do so very shortly, as the largest firm of tobacco and cigar manufacturers in New Zealand have recently opened a branch establishment in Suva. After many years of experiment the principal growers in Viti Levu have succeeded in producing the fine Sumatra leaf, used for the outer wrapping of cigars, and this may become a valuable export. At present the locally-grown tobacco is made up into cigars, cigarettes and smoking tobacco for local consumption, which is considerable.

4. The cultivation of Para rubber is being systematically extended, and spices are also being widely planted. Many

enquiries are received from persons anxious to settle in Fiji for agricultural purposes, and arrangements are under consideration for facilitating their doing so. The new sugar mill of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, alluded to in the report as being under construction at Lautoka, was finished early in 1903, and commenced operations in June. The plant can work up to an output of over 100 tons a day. The same Company's mills at Rarawai, Ba River, have been doubled in size within the last year.

5. Colonial Distilled Spirit, the export of which has dropped from 158,224 gallons in 1900, and 137,937 gallons in 1901 to 29,299 gallons in 1902, seems likely to disappear from our staple products, owing to the high duties imposed by the Commonwealth, the large distilleries at Nausori Mills having since been closed.

6. The export of copra is increasing, and is likely to do so more rapidly in the near future as the large new areas, which are annually planted out under Government supervision, come into bearing. Peanuts have been largely planted of late, and candlenuts grow freely all over these islands, so that with these three products there is ample supply here for an oil mill.

I have, &c.,

H. M. Jackson.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1902.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the amount of Revenue received, under various heads, during the years 1902 and 1901:—

Head of Revenue.	1902.			1901.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	81,987	18	8	66,875	10	2
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	5,686	2	3	4,853	14	10
Native Taxes	19,208	3	5	19,171	16	7
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	10,238	4	6	9,035	1	9
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	9,025	4	2	8,046	6	6
Post Office	3,484	4	2	3,076	8	10
Rent of Government Property ...	602	1	0	657	14	10
Interest	962	18	0	566	15	4
Miscellaneous Receipts...	1,039	12	2	1,508	19	1
	132,234	8	4	113,792	7	11
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	278	6	0	61	0	0
Total ... ... £	132,512	14	4	113,853	7	11

The following statement shows the Expenditure for 1902 and 1901 under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure 1902.			Actual Expenditure 1901.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,252	0	1	9,285	15	1
Pensions	2,238	7	3	2,344	3	0
The Governor and Legislature ...	3,318	19	6	2,634	16	3
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,275	2	2	1,213	6	1
Government Printing Office	1,706	12	8	1,753	8	2
Audit Department	702	17	4	700	19	1
Postal Department	2,825	2	8	1,217	4	0
Provincial Department	7,747	13	7	6,985	0	11
Treasury...	4,108	18	9	3,768	8	11
Customs Department	3,609	1	0	3,138	2	11
Port and Marine Department... ...	2,978	18	2	1,862	19	3
Carried forward ...	39,763	13	2	34,904	3	8

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure 1902.			Actual Expenditure 1901.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	39,763	13	2	34,904	3	8
Immigration Department	7,970	5	9	7,997	4	11
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	9,686	3	11	9,171	7	7
Police Department	3,213	10	8	2,976	16	10
Armed Native Constabulary	3,944	6	7	2,686	7	9
Prisons Department	3,513	13	6	3,473	15	8
Medical Department	8,279	16	5	7,311	10	3
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	3,048	15	4	2,866	15	11
Education	1,041	3	10	1,007	8	0
Transport	1,958	12	2	1,607	13	5
Miscellaneous	5,104	6	9	1,815	1	2
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,851	2	0	1,711	9	6
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	3,638	12	8	7,286	13	9
	93,014	2	9	84,816	8	5
Public Works Extraordinary	20,327	5	1	20,156	17	10
Total	113,341	7	10	104,973	6	3

The total Revenue and Expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1898	94,146	15	6	87,594	8	6
1899	98,621	7	8	95,567	13	2
1900	111,568	17	9	100,022	7	6
1901	113,853	7	11	104,973	6	3
1902	132,512	14	4	113,341	7	10

The Revenue for 1902 exceeds that of 1901 by £18,659 6*s*. 5*d*., the main increase being under the head of Customs.

(B.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony shows that on 31st December, 1902, the excess of Assets over Liabilities amounted to £60,878 2*s*. 2*d*.:—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Fixed Deposit	208	1	7			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	226	8	2	434	9	9
Return-Passages Fund—						
Fixed Deposit	1,000	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	46,532	12	9			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	2,274	6	1	49,806	18	10
Public Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits at Bank of New Zealand	5,975	12	6			
Invested in Colonial Stock	19,953	9	4			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	722	11	9	26,651	13	7
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Fixed Deposit at Interest	150	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	157	19	0	307	19	0
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Fixed Deposit at Interest	700	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance on the 31st December, 1902	5,590	5	10			
Bills in transit and maturing with Crown Agents	9,000	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance with him on the 30th September, 1902	581	5	2	15,871	11	0
Provincial Department Deposit Account—						
Invested in Colonial Stocks	4,252	3	11			
Fixed Deposits at Interest...	5,062	17	3			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	1,108	7	8	10,423	8	10
Native Taxes Account—						
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	...		...	1,569	7	0
Crown Agents—						
Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902 ...	448	0	6			
Investment in Stocks	36,000	0	0	36,448	0	6
Bills in transit and maturing	...		...	11,000	0	0
Immigration Department—						
Amounts due to the Department	36	18	6			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	6,765	19	1	6,802	17	7
Indian Immigrants' Advance Account ...	...		...	2,511	5	6
Revenue paid into the Bank in 1903, but brought to account in 1902	...		...	3,243	7	11
Public Account—						
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902	...		...	10,339	15	2
Advance Account—						
Amounts recoverable	...		...	2,213	6	8
Rotuma Advance Account—						
Amounts recoverable	...		...	279	6	7
Suspense Account—						
Amounts recoverable	...		...	59	4	0
Total	...		...	177,962	11	11

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Amount to Credit of Account				434	9	9
Return-Passages Fund—						
Amount to Credit of Account				49,806	18	10
Public Trust Account—						
Amount to Credit of Account				26,651	13	7
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Amount to Credit of Account				307	19	0
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Overpaid by Crown Agents	1,556	8	2			
Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1902	47	18	2			
Amount to Credit of Account	14,267	4	8			
				15,871	11	0
Provincial Department Deposit Account—						
Cheques Unpaid, 31st December, 1902	772	5	11			
Amount to Credit of Account, 31st December, 1902	9,651	2	11			
				10,423	8	10
Native Taxes Account—						
Cheques Unpaid, 31st December, 1902	171	12	3			
Amount to Credit of Account	1,397	14	9			
				1,569	7	0
Public Account—						
Cheques Outstanding				11,596	7	0
Deposit Account—						
Amounts repayable				186	18	4
Crown Agents' Investment Account—						
Repayable				14	7	11
Deposits for Expenditure—						
Public Works—						
Suva-Rewa Road	67	2	6			
Provincial Inspectors' Quarters	74	6	0			
				141	8	6
Returning Polynesians				80	0	0
				117,084	9	9
Excess of Assets				60,878	2	2
Total				177,962	11	11

(C.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony has been reduced by £4,840 5*s*. 1*d*. during the year, and on 31st December, 1902, stood as follows:—

Imperial Loan	£92,355	6	4
Under Debenture	98,900	0	0
	£191,251	6	4

The Imperial Loan bears no interest and is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s*. 1*d*. per annum. The remainder of the Public Debt consists of debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt.

(D.) CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. There is no Government note issue. There are two banks in the Colony: the Bank of New Zealand, with branches at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales, with a branch at Suva.

(E.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the Revenue and Expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards, and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976
1899 ...	1,710	1,639	1,511	1,511
1900 ...	1,644	1,529	1,627	1,606
1901 ...	1,994	2,095	2,035	1,963
1902 ...	2,041	2,005	941	[illegible]09

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1898 ...	726	694	542	591
1899 ...	759	722	548	520
1900 ...	719	716	559	560
1901 ...	758	681	768	557
1902 ...	857	786	682	651

(F.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipal Boards have no power to borrow money.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1901.	1902.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,526	1,891
2. Bags and sugar-mats...	7,418	9,501
3. Beer	3,188	4,048
4. Books	641	2,446
5. Boots and shoes	3,968	4,903
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	22,197	31,013
7. Butter and ghee	6,618	7,281
8. Coal	13,064	13,820
9. Cordage	2,143	3,224
10. Cutlery...	2,583	2,090
11. Drapery	61,554	76,338
12. Drugs	4,153	4,768
13. Fish	3,651	5,260
14. Furniture	2,254	3,890
15. Galvanised iron and goods	9,273	9,165
16. Glassware and crockery	2,584	3,452
17. Hardware	29,470	42,660
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	15,322	21,221
19. Jewellery	2,400	2,530
20. Leatherware	2,811	3,787
21. Live stock	6,390	20,954
22. Machinery	6,926	84,860
23. Machinery—agricultural	6,697	3,130
24. Manure	4,555	4,291
25. Meats	11,490	11,727
26. Oils	10,743	10,497
27. Pickles and oilstores	733	858
28. Paints	2,400	2,326
29. Produce	1,710	728
30. Rice	8,585	8,075
31. Ship chandlery	3,948	3,675
32. Soap	775	1,206
33. Spirits	5,363	6,230
34. Stationery	3,222	4,475
35. Sugar	1,361	1,607
36. Timber...	17,123	26,430
37. Tobacco	2,963	4,245
38. Vegetables and green fruit	3,850	4,155
39. Wines	1,816	2,452
40. Woodenware	1,448	1,717

The main increases are:—Breadstuffs and Biscuits, £8,816; Drapery, £14,784; Hardware, £13,190; Iron (bar, rod, &c.), £5,899; Live Stock, £14,564; Machinery, £77,934; Timber, £9,307. The increase under the head of machinery is caused by the importation of machinery for a new sugar mill.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1898	234,850	534,105
1899	263,044	481,856
1900	349,890	619,836
1901	351,183	548,805
1902	526,847	535,171

The staple products of the Colony are Sugar, Copra, Green Fruit, and Colonial Distilled Spirit (a by-product of the sugar industry). The quantity and value of these products exported during the past five years are given in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886
1899	28,403	340,602	7,228	73,421	30,606	132,440	16,343
1900	32,961	393,987	15,605	151,701	28,112	158,224	28,839
1901	31,751	380,155	10,626	107,372	23,175	137,937	17,232
1902	35,905	347,691	10,683	135,354	25,226	29,299	3,579

The export of Sugar for 1902 shows an increase of 4,154 tons as compared with 1901, but the value has considerably decreased, owing to the fact that during the year the value as declared for statistical purposes was reduced from £12 to £7 10*s*. 0*d*. per ton.

The decrease in the export of Colonial Distilled Spirit is caused by increased duty imposed by the Commonwealth Government.

(B.) MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FISHERIES.

The following table gives the various mills, factories, &c., established in this Colony and their nominal daily output during 1902:—

Mills, Factories, &c., and their Daily Output.

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	5	204 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lbs. dried tea.
Soap factory	1	9 cwt. soap.
Boatbuilding yards	12	
Saw-mills	5	

The value of Pearl-shell exported during 1902 was £790, Turtle-shell, £1,278, and Beche-de-mer, £3,404.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The cultivation of sugar-cane forms the staple agricultural industry of the Colony. Of the five sugar mills in the Colony, three are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Sydney. A fourth mill has been erected by this Company at Lautoka, on the island of Vitilevu, which will commence crushing in 1903. The total area of land under cane cultivation in the Colony is estimated at 27,279 acres, from which were produced 337,163 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available in regard to the cultivation of sugar cane by natives in 1902:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa	554	8,712	4,259
Ba	158	3,302	1,897
Navua	82	1,231	709
Labasa	100	463	273
Ra	78	1,065	505

Cane cultivation is also extensively carried on by time-expired Indian immigrants, who settle on small holdings in the vicinity of the sugar mills. In the Rewa district during 1902 they cultivated 1,206 acres, producing 24,881 tons of cane, valued at £14,925, and at Navua 2,356 acres were cultivated, producing 45,863 tons of cane, valued at £22,873.

With a view to inducing Indian immigrants who have completed their term of indenture to remain in the Colony, several blocks of land, aggregating some 7,000 acres, have been acquired and thrown open for settlement at a nominal rental. In the Labasa District some 1,100 acres have been leased, the estimated population of the settlements being 1,452 men, women and children.

There is a Botanic Station at Suva from which economic plants are distributed free of charge. During 1902 the following were so distributed:—

Plants.	No.
Cacao	2,392
Vanilla...	1,501
Clove	784
Liberian Coffee	345
Allspice	290
Para Rubber	44

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The total area of Crown Land in the Colony does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown Grant is 424,157 acres. Every assistance is afforded by Government to the leasing by Europeans and others of such lands as are not occupied or actually required by the native owners. Large areas of native land have been leased, the annual rental varying from 3*s.* to £1 per acre for arable land, the rent charged for land for pasturage being much less.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number, nationality and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of entry during the years 1901 and 1902:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1901.		1902.		1901.		1902.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	81	91,170	113	165,764	80	86,694	109	165,912
" ...	Sailing	15	2,081	14	1,420	14	2,058	11	1,220
American	"	3	1,289	4	1,945	3	1,289	4	1,945
Danish ...	"	1	608	—	—	1	608	—	—
Norwegian	"	16	10,547	9	5,004	14	8,941	11	6,445
Tongan ...	"	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—

The total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1898	133,752	132,767	266,519
1899	128,791	126,656	255,447
1900	96,909	93,911	190,820
1901	105,711	99,590	205,301
1902	174,133	175,522	349,655

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Volunteer Ordinance, 1898, was amended by Ordinance No. II. of 1902 in the following respects:—

The provision by which members of a company were permitted to recommend the names of persons to the Governor for appointment as officers has been repealed.

The rank of the Commandant of the Force has been reduced from Colonel to Lieutenant-Colonel.

Officers commanding companies are made responsible for the efficient condition of their companies in every respect.

Provision is made for calling out the force in case of need, and for its discipline when on actual active service.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1902 amends the Criminal Law and Procedure Ordinance, 1889, by adding sentence of flogging to imprisonment in certain cases.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor-in-Council; and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government Grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between 6 and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary English education are taught. There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with three teachers and 123 scholars, and one in Levuka with two teachers and 82 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic Schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an attendance of 161.

The education of the natives throughout the group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,383 schools with 2,638 teachers and 24,261 scholars. The latter have 161 schools with 200 teachers and 1,890 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is a hospital at Suva maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer assisted by five European nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1902 there were 1,198 patients treated, of whom 127 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,250 12*s*. 2*d*., and the expenditure (including the salary of the Resident Medical Officer) to £3,025 7*s*. 7*d*.

There are also five provincial hospitals established by Government for the treatment of native Fijians. They are under the charge of Provincial Medical Officers and are maintained by Government from public funds, assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefited. In two provinces hospitals have been erected by the natives at their own expense. They are under the charge of a Government Medical Officer and are assisted by a grant in aid from public funds. A provincial hospital has been established on the island of Rotuma. It is under the charge of a Medical Officer who is also Resident Commissioner.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Chief Medical Officer is Superintendent. During 1902 there were 15 admissions and 10 discharges and 4 deaths, leaving 21 inmates on 31st December. Revenue £232 17*s*. 0*d*., expenditure £583 7*s*. 3*d*.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Beqa. The expenditure during 1902 amounted to £90 0*s*. 6*d*. The number of inmates on 31st December was 14.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The Police Force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of three European Officers, three Native Sergeants, three Native Corporals, and one Indian and twenty-five Native Constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the Rural Police, consisting of three European Sergeants, thirteen Native Sergeants, and forty-five Native and Indian Constables, under the control of the Magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each Magistrate's station. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and, in the case of certain adjacent districts, one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1902 was 833. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported during 1902 was 7,399. Of these 1,016 were offences against the person, 536 were larceny, 204 were offences against property, and 5,643 were other offences—chiefly breaches of the Labour Ordinances by immigrants. Of the 7,399 cases reported, 2,215 were dismissed, 5,107 were dealt with summarily, and 77 were committed to the Supreme Court. During the year three persons were sentenced to death for murder, of whom two were executed.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1902, compared with the Census Returns of 31st March, 1901:—

—	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1902.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	1,567	981	2,548
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	797	774	1,571
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	13,168	6,708	19,876
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,533	353	1,886
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,021	1,174	2,195
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	49,773	43,611	93,384
Others	254	213	467	251	214	465
Totals ...	66,874	53,250	120,124	68,110	53,815	121,925

The decrease in the native population during 1902 was 454, being the lowest recorded since the 1891 census. The birth rate amongst natives was 38.65 per mille for 1902, and the death rate 43.69 per mille. The heavy mortality amongst infants is responsible for the decrease in the population, and in this connection it is satisfactory to note that the death rate amongst infants under one year was 24 per cent. in 1902 as against 27 per cent. in 1899, 31 per cent. in 1896, and 72 per cent. in 1893.

(B.) Public Health.

No serious epidemic occurred during the year, though influenza and dengue fever were common at certain seasons. Every precaution has been taken to prevent the introduction of bubonic plague. The destruction of rats was encouraged by the payment of 3*d.* for each one killed.

The European population at 31st December was estimated at 2,548. The deaths during 1902 numbered 32, being at the rate of 12.55 per mille.

The climate of Fiji is healthy and cool for the tropics. A great variety of temperature is to be found in the group.

(C.) Sanitation.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which has any system of sewerage, the dry-earth system being in use throughout the Colony. Sanitary grants of £200 and £100 respectively are paid from public funds to the Town Boards of Suva and Levuka.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year recorded at Suva was 102.35 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 7.06 inches on 23rd February. The highest temperature in the shade was 94, on 5th and 6th April, and the lowest 58, on 7th September. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The following statement gives the particulars in regard to the Postal service of the Colony for the year 1902:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters ... Postcards ...	342,289	11,907	9,846	97,977	75,717	537,736
Newspapers ...	221,755	42,795	5,742	114,340	17,536	402,168
Book packets, samples and circulars.	34,223	5,840	1,476	22,762	5,993	70,294
Parcels	—	426	86	2,149	250	2,911

	Despatched.	Received.
(Including Registered	7,543	7,505.)

Money Orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during 1902:—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1,147 18 5	272 10 9
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	5,247 11 11	766 3 10
Total	6,395 10 4	1,038 14 7

A telegraph line is at present in course of construction between Suva and Levuka. The route selected is from Suva overland to Namena, a distance of about 22 miles; thence to

Bureta, on the island of Ovalau, by cable, a distance of 11½ miles, and thence overland to Levuka, a distance of about 13 miles.

There is telephonic communication between Suva and Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) viâ Nausori and Ba.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) VOLUNTEERS.

There is a Volunteer Force in the Colony numbering 174 officers and men. The expenditure on uniforms, ammunition, &c., amounted to £248 4*s.* 2*d.* in 1902.

(B.) CONSTABULARY.

In addition to the above-mentioned force there is a body of armed Native Constabulary, numbering 121 officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Few roads fit for wheeled traffic exist beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka and the principal sugar factories, though there are bridle tracks everywhere. There is a metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles.

Owing to the insular nature of the Colony the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by means of steam launches between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service from Suva to Lautoka viâ Levuka and Ba. Communication between the various islands is maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 134 small sailing vessels, of which 88 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1902, 1,585 Indian immigrants were introduced into the Colony and 479 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 20,076 Indians in the Colony, of whom 8,225 are serving under indenture. The average cost of introduction during the past five years is £15 9*s.* 11*d.* per adult. The labourer is recruited in India through the usual emigration agency system, and comes to Fiji for 10 years, five of which he spends in the service of the employer to whom he is indentured, and the second five as a free man, working where he pleases. At the end of ten years he is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of general revenue.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on Public Works for the year 1902 (exclusive of establishments) amounted to £24,009 11*s.* 5*d.*, the main items being: maintenance and construction of public buildings, £9,497 9*s.* 4*d.*; water supplies to native villages, £5,621 11*s.* 7*d.*; roads, £1,398 11*s.* 0*d.*; bridges, £1,207 11*s.* 9*d.*; renewal and repair of wharfs, £979 5*s.* 10*d.*

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir H. M. Jackson, K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor of the Colony on 18th July, 1902, in succession to Sir G. T. M. O'Brien, K.C.M.G., and arrived in the Colony on the 10th September, up to which date the Government was administered by Mr. W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G.

On 2nd May Sir H. S. Berkeley, Chief Justice, was transferred to Hong Kong. On 5th September Mr. C. H. Major was appointed Chief Justice, and arrived in the Colony on 4th November. During the interval between Sir H. S. Berkeley's departure and Mr. Major's arrival Mr. J. K. M. Ross acted as Chief Justice.

On the 1st July, 1902, Mr. C. H. H. Irvine, K.C., was appointed Attorney-General in succession to Mr. H. E. Pollock, who resigned.

The office of Assistant Colonial Secretary has been abolished, the officer holding that appointment being promoted to the post of Colonial Secretary.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

The four products, sugar, copra, green fruit, and Colonial distilled spirit, made up over 98 per cent. of the export trade of the Colony in 1902. The principal minor exports are beche-de-mer, turtle-shell, peanuts, maize, cocoanuts and pearl-shell. Such products as cocoa, coffee, limes, ginger, and spices can all be grown in the Colony. The cultivation of cocoa has lately attracted some attention, and there are now some 200 acres under cultivation.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy and not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is principally performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as skilled labourers and overseers.

The following are the average rates of wages: carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14*s.* per day; overseers, £80 to £200 per annum, with quarters.

The Colony is in a sound financial condition. The revenue for 1902 exceeded the expenditure by £19,171 6*s.* 6*d.*, but of this amount some £9,000 will be required to complete certain public works undertaken during 1902, but not completed at the end of the year. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st December last amounted to £60,878 2*s.* 2*d.*, from which should be deducted the sum of £9,000 mentioned above, leaving a credit balance of over £50,000. This sum should be sufficient to meet any deficit caused by hurricane or other disaster.

WM. SUTHERLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

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1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 434.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 399.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1904.

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No. 434.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 399.)

Acting-Governor MAJOR to Mr. LYTTELTON.

Government House, Suva,
September 10th, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the usual number of copies of the Fiji Blue Book for 1903 are being forwarded under separate cover, and to enclose a copy of a report thereon by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Sutherland.

2. The report shows that the satisfactory condition of affairs generally in the Colony, alluded to by Sir H. Jackson in his despatch of 14th August, 1903,* continues to exist, and there is every indication of future improvement.

3. The revenue for the year 1903 was the highest on record, and totalled £138,166 16*s.* 11*d.*, being £13,228 19*s.* 4*d.* in excess of the expenditure. The total trade of the Colony was valued at £1,043,802, the largest item in the export trade being sugar, £406,318. Now that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has commenced crushing operations at their new mill at Lautoka, and are putting additional areas under cane at their other centres, the export of sugar is likely to be much larger in future years; and it is noteworthy that the Company has acquired refining works at Vancouver, to which port sugar is now being shipped from Fiji.

4. The number of applications for leases of native land by Indian immigrants whose indentures have expired, has greatly increased in the last twelve months, and at every meeting of the Executive Council, large numbers of applications continue to be dealt with. The question of the settlement of these

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* Printed with Report for 1902.

immigrants, which has been under consideration for some considerable time, is a matter which will doubtless be dealt with by the newly-appointed Governor as soon as possible after his arrival in the Colony next month.

5. I am glad to be able to state that a very desirable class of European planter is now settling in the Colony, and turning attention to the cultivation of cocoa, spices, and other products, which have hitherto figured in the export list as very minor exports, if they have appeared at all. Every assistance is being given to encourage such settlement, and to the introduction of cotton planting, which is likely to be taken up again in this Colony. A representative of the British Cotton Growing Association is at present on a visit to Fiji, and, as the outcome of negotiations between the Government and the Association, it is probable that some 6,000 acres of land will be immediately planted, and that ginning machinery will be sent out to the Colony by the Association.

6. The cultivation of tobacco and the establishment of a factory at Suva, by the firm of manufacturers mentioned in Sir H. Jackson's despatch of 14th August, 1903,* have, unfortunately, not been successful, and all operations have been stopped.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES MAJOR.

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* Printed with Report for 1902.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1903:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the amount of Revenue received under the various heads for the years 1903 and 1902:—

Head of Revenue.	1903.			1902.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	84,136	1	7	81,987	18	8
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	5,992	11	4	5,686	2	3
Native Taxes	19,140	0	0	19,208	3	5
License, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	10,362	9	9	10,238	4	6
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	9,554	6	0	9,025	4	2
Post Office	4,809	7	11	3,484	4	2
Rent of Government Property ...	695	17	7	602	1	0
Interest	1,428	6	7	962	18	0
Miscellaneous	2,047	16	2	1,039	12	2
	138,166	16	11	132,234	8	4
Land Sales	—			278	6	0
Total ... ... £	138,166	16	11	132,512	14	4

The following is the statement of the Expenditure for the years 1903 and 1902, under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	1903.			1902.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,218	5	1	9,252	0	1
Pensions	2,325	15	7	2,238	7	3
The Governor and Legislature ...	3,714	12	5	3,318	19	6
Colonial Secretary	2,194	15	9	1,275	2	2
Printing Department	1,914	14	4	1,706	12	8
Audit Department	703	16	0	702	17	4
Postal Department	3,896	13	3	2,825	2	8
Provincial Department	8,062	18	11	7,747	13	7
Treasury...	3,440	10	3	4,108	18	9
Customs	3,648	2	11	3,609	1	0
Port and Marine	2,310	16	7	2,978	18	2
Immigration Department	8,243	3	6	7,970	5	9
Judicial and Legal Department ...	9,566	9	6	9,686	3	11
Carried forward ...	59,240	14	1	57,420	2	10

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1903.			1902.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s	d.
Brought forward ...	59,240	14	1	57,420	2	10
Police	3,454	1	11	3,213	10	8
Armed Native Constabulary and Volunteers.	2,918	19	11	3,944	6	7
Prisons	3,258	4	10	3,513	13	6
Medical	10,809	0	0	8,279	16	5
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and Leper Asylum.	3,137	0	5	3,048	15	4
Education	928	10	4	1,041	3	10
Transport	1,191	0	5	1,958	12	2
Miscellaneous	3,238	4	11	5,104	6	9
Lands, Works, and Survey Departments	1,869	3	11	1,851	2	0
Public Works, Recurrent	3,810	12	1	3,638	12	8
	93,855	12	10	93,014	2	9
Public Works Extraordinary	31,092	7	9	20,327	5	1
Total	124,948	0	7	113,341	7	10

The total Revenue and Expenditure during each of the past five years are shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1899	94,146	15	6	87,594	8	6
1900	98,621	7	8	95,567	13	2
1901	111,568	17	9	100,022	7	6
1902	132,512	14	4	104,973	6	3
1903	138,166	16	11	113,341	7	10

The revenue for 1903 stands as a record, exceeding by more than £5,000 that for 1902. The principal increase is under the head of "Customs," and is due to improvement in trade. The Post Office shows an increase in revenue of £1,325.

The extra expenditure for 1903, is mainly due to the fact that some £11,000 was spent on Public Works Extraordinary in excess of the amount expended in the previous year. Nearly £9,000 was required to complete certain public works undertaken in 1902.

(B.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1903, shows that on that date the excess of assets over liabilities, or the accumulated surplus to the credit of the Colony, amounted to £57,561 17*s.* 10*d.*

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Fixed Deposit	213	5	7			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903	229	15	4			
Paid in in January, 1904, but brought to account in 1903	0	6	7			
				443	7	6
Return-Passages Fund—						
Fixed Deposit	1,000	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	48,002	17	3			
Bills in transit	4,000	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903	3,707	6	11			
				56,710	4	2
Public Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits at Bank of New Zealand	7,775	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	19,953	9	4			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903	477	5	1			
				28,205	14	5
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Fixed Deposit at Interest	150	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903	206	9	1			
				356	9	1
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Fixed Deposit at Interest	700	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance on the 31st December, 1903	3,596	5	0			
Bills in transit and maturing with Crown Agents	10,000	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance with him on the 30th September, 1903	703	0	8			
Emigration Agent, Madras: Credit Balance with him on the 31st December, 1903 ...	262	8	5			
Paid in January, 1904, but brought to account in December, 1903	51	3	5			
				15,312	17	6
Provincial Department Deposit Account—						
Invested in Colonial Stocks	4,252	3	11			
Fixed Deposits at Interest	6,054	17	3			
Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903	1,159	10	3			
				11,466	11	5
Native Taxes Account — Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903				1,482	7	5
Crown Agents—Investment in Stocks				42,001	5	1
Bills in transit and maturing				8,000	0	0
Immigration Department—						
Amounts due to the Department	59	5	9			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	7,041	17	5			
				7,101	3	2
Indian Immigrants' Advance Account				1,698	5	10
Revenue paid into the Bank in 1904, but brought to account in 1903				2,754	16	6
Public Account—Bank Credit Balance, 31st December, 1903				9,457	9	6
Advance Account—Amounts recoverable				663	10	0
Rotuma Advance Account—Amounts recoverable				220	10	5
Suspense Account—Amounts recoverable				25	17	4
New Steamer—Suspense Account				16,833	6	3
Total ... ... £				202,733	15	7

Audited,—J. O. FORTH, Colonial Auditor.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—Amount to Credit of Account				443	7	6
Return-Passages Fund—						
Cheques Unpaid on 31st December, 1903	6	12	0			
Amount to Credit of Account	56,703	12	2			
				56,710	4	2
Public Trust Account—Amount to Credit of Account ...				28,205	14	5
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Cheques Unpaid on 31st December, 1903	2	9	9			
Amount to Credit of Account	353	19	4			
				356	9	1
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Overpaid by Crown Agents	5,513	3	1			
Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1903	43	10	5			
Amount to Credit of Account	9,756	4	0			
				15,312	17	6
Provincial Department Deposit Account—						
Cheques Unpaid, 31st December, 1903 ...	382	15	6			
Amount to Credit of Account, 31st December, 1903	11,083	15	11			
				11,466	11	5
Native Taxes Account—						
Cheques Unpaid, 31st December, 1903 ...	51	12	7			
Amount to Credit of Account	1,430	14	10			
				1,482	7	5
Public Account—Cheques Outstanding				12,798	11	9
Deposit Account—Amounts repayable				200	17	11
Amount paid in excess				0	1	0
Crown Agents—Debit Balance, 31st December, 1903 ...				1,361	9	4
Amount chargeable to General Expenditure on account of purchase of new steamer				16,833	6	3
				145,171	17	9
Excess of Assets				57,561	17	10
Total ... ... £				202,733	15	7

WM. SUTHERLAND, Acting Receiver-General, 6/4/04.

(C.) Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1903, amounted to £186,515 1*s.* 3*d.* Of this amount, £91,315 1*s.* 3*d.* is an advance, without interest, from Imperial Funds. It has for many years been repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s.* 1*d.* per annum. The remainder of the debt consists of £95,200 debentures. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1903, the debt was reduced by £4,740 5*s.* 1*d.*

(D.) Currency.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000.

There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has branches at Suva and Levuka. The Bank of New South Wales has a branch at Suva.

(E.) Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the Revenue and Expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards, and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	1,710	1,639	1,511	1,511
1900 ...	1,644	1,529	1,627	1,606
1901 ...	1,994	2,095	2,035	1,963
1902 ...	2,041	2,005	940	1,108
1903 ...	2,051	2,009	919	1,296

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	759	716	548	560
1900 ...	719	681	559	557
1901 ...	758	809	768	757
1902 ...	856	785	682	651
1903 ...	1,034	1,094	711	603

(F.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Municipal Boards had no power to borrow money until the 29th December, 1903, when powers to borrow by debentures were conferred on Town Boards by Ordinance.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of Import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1902.	1903.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,891	2,110
2. Bags and sugar-mats	9,501	11,530
3. Beer	4,048	4,122
4. Books	2,446	2,203
5. Boots and shoes	4,903	4,767
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	31,013	35,934
7. [illegible] and ghee	7,281	8,584
8. [illegible]	2,130	2,860
9. [illegible]	13,820	21,512
10. [illegible]	3,224	3,131
11. [illegible]	2,090	3,016
12. [illegible]	76,338	78,478
13. [illegible]	4,768	6,538
14. [illegible]	5,260	6,357
15. Furniture	3,890	2,737
16. Galvanised iron and goods	9,165	9,323
17. Glassware and crockery	3,452	2,957
18. Hardware	42,260	44,449
19. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	21,221	15,071
20. Jewellery	2,530	2,950
21. Leatherware	3,787	2,887
22. Live stock	20,954	9,128
23. Machinery	84,860	37,941
24. Machinery—agricult[illegible]	3,130	4,733
25. Manure	4,291	7,323
26. Meats	11,727	11,868
27. Oils	10,497	13,787
28. Paints	2,326	2,568
29. Paper—Wrapping and Printing	1,180	1,247
30. Rice	8,075	12,312
31. Ship chandlery	3,675	2,490
32. Soap	1,206	1,704
33. Spirits	6,230	6,742
34. Stationery	4,475	4,229
35. Sugar	1,607	1,409
36. Timber	26,430	21,212
37. Tobacco	4,245	4,672
38. Vegetables and green fruit	4,155	4,330
39. Wines	2,452	1,834
40. Woodenware	1,717	1,141

The items showing increases of note, are breadstuffs, coal, manure, oils, and rice.

The principal decrease is in machinery and livestock. This is attributable to the new sugar mill at Lautoka having been completed and equipped, and the livestock necessary for the working of the plantations having been introduced in 1900 and 1902.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra and green fruit. Distilled spirits have now almost disappeared from the list.

The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1899 ...	28,403	340,602	7,228	73,421	30,606
1900 ...	32,961	393,987	15,605	151,701	28,112
1901 ...	31,751	380,155	10,626	107,372	23,175
1902 ...	35,905	347,691	10,683	135,354	25,226
1903 ...	46,438	406,318	8,526	91,050	32,162

The export of sugar for 1903 shows an increase of 10,533 tons, but the value per ton still continues to decrease. The value of green fruit exported has not been so high for several years. The principal minor exports, bêche-de-mer (£2,569), maize (£1,055), vanilla (£1,183), coconuts (£1,050), pearl-shell (£1,035), and turtle-shell (£1,000), show little alteration from past years. The following table shows the value of the total Imports and Exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1899	263,044	481,856
1900	349,890	619,836
1901	351,182	548,804
1902	526,846	535,170
1903	489,095	554,707

The total value of the import and export trade of the Colony for 1903 was £1,043,802. This was a very satisfactory year as regards the general improvement in trade. The following table shows the amount of Customs duties levied on imports during the five years:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1899	56,626
1900	65,932
1901	66,875
1902	81,987
1903	84,136

The duties levied in 1903 exceed those of 1902 by £2,149 in amount and are £13,825 in excess of the average for the past five years.

Nearly nine-tenths of the total trade of the Colony is done with New South Wales and New Zealand. As the bulk of the imports come from Sydney there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture.

(B.) MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FISHERIES.

The following table gives the various mills, factories, &c., established in the Colony and the nominal daily output in 1903:—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons of dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lbs. of dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	14	
Soapworks	1	9 cwts. of soap.
Saw-mills	4	
Tobacco factory	1	No return.

The fine new sugar mill at Lautoka started crushing in 1903. This accounts for the large increase in the aggregate daily output of dried sugar. 204 tons was the output in 1902.

34 tons of bêche-de-mer, 14 tons of pearl shell and 12 cwt. of turtleshell were exported during 1903.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The cultivation of sugar cane forms the staple agricultural industry of the Colony. Of the six sugar mills, four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Sydney. The total area of land under cane cultivation in the Colony is estimated at 33,304 acres, from which were produced 434,180 tons of cane in 1903.

The returns show that the acreage under coconuts was less in 1902 than in 1903. There has, however, been no actual decrease in the area, but some planters have neglected to send in returns. 3,115 acres planted with bananas produced 303,925 bunches and 14,806 cases of fruit; 1,992 acres of rice produced 1,603 tons. The total area under cultivation by settlers amounts to 59,795 acres.

There is a botanical station at Suva, from which economic plants are distributed free of charge. During 1903 the following were so distributed:—

Clove trees	776
Allspice	415
Para-rubber	574
Avocado pear	7
Vanilla	400
Cacao	1,940
Oil palm	360

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The total area of Crown land does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 425,245 acres. Every assistance is afforded by Government to the leasing by Europeans and others of such lands as are not occupied or actually required by the native owners. An encouraging feature was noticeable in 1903, in the increased number of applications made by Indian immigrants, who had completed their term of indenture, for leases of native lands. The greatest number of leases applied for in any previous year was 36, but in 1903, 137 blocks of land, varying from 1 to 50 acres in area and comprising 788 acres in all, were taken up by Indian settlers. These people are rapidly acquiring and cultivating land in the vicinity of Suva and the sugar plantations and on the desirable parts of the Navitilevu coast.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of entry during 1902 and 1903:—

Shipping.

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1902.		1903.		1902.		1903.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	113	165,764	106	152,755	109	165,912	107	153,684
"	Sailing	14	1,420	15	8,623	11	1,220	15	8,713
American	"	4	1,925	4	1,182	4	1,945	5	1,196
Norwegian	Steam			3	585			3	585
"	Sailing	9	5,004	9	5,189	11	6,445	6	3,891

The total shipping, inwards and outwards, for the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1899	128,971	126,656	255,447
1900	96,909	93,911	190,820
1901	105,711	99,590	205,301
1902	174,133	175,522	349,655
1903	168,139	168,068	336,208

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances of 1903:—

II. Flogging Regulation Ordinance, limiting the number of strokes which may be ordered, to 24.

III. To amend "The Indian Marriage Ordinance, 1892."

IV. To amend "The Marriage Ordinance, 1892."

VI. To amend "The Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1891."

VII. To amend "The Customs Duties Ordinance, 1898," by (1) reducing the import duty on sugar from ½*d.* to ¼*d.* per lb.; (2) adding to the list of articles exempt from duty:—Certain articles imported for use in connection with the manufactures of tobacco; vestments, ornaments, and church furniture, and, by special permission, building materials for the erection of churches; electric cables and apparatus; additional agricultural implements; seeds for planting purposes; drums and cylinders used for certain purposes; outside packing cases; salt for manure; vaccine lymph, and other anti-toxins.

IX. Hard Labour Ordinance, providing that when a sentence of imprisonment can be imposed by a Court, the word "imprisonment" in Ordinances, &c., shall be construed to mean "imprisonment with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court."

X. Providing for certain marriages under "Imperial Foreign Marriage Act, 1892."

XI. Relating to wireless telegraphy.

XII. Native Protection Ordinance, making it a penal offence to in any way aid or abet a native to a breach of any regulation made by the Native Regulation Board.

XIII. Providing for a new and revised edition of Ordinances of the Colony.

XIV. To amend the "Harbour Ordinance, 1880."

XV. Amending "The Medical Practitioners and Apothecaries Registration Ordinance, 1881."

XVI. Towns Loan Ordinance, conferring powers on Town Boards to borrow money by debentures.

XVII. Amending Law *re* Appeals from summary convictions and orders of Inferior Courts.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of school boards within constituted districts (at present, only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children, within the school districts, between 6 and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary English education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these school boards, one in Suva, with four teachers and an attendance of 139·1, and one in Levuka, with two teachers and 88 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony, with an average attendance of 141.

The education of the natives throughout the Group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions.

The former have 1,328 schools, with 2,544 teachers and 18,845 scholars, and the latter 163 schools, with 200 teachers and 1,880 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is a hospital at Suva maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a resident medical officer, assisted by five European nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1903, there were 1,664 patients treated, of whom 138 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,209, and the expenditure (including the salary of the resident medical officer) to £2,939.

There are also six provincial hospitals established by Government for the treatment of native Fijians. Two of them were opened in 1903. They are under the charge of provincial medical officers, and are maintained by Government from public funds, assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefited. In two provinces, hospitals have been erected by the natives at their own expense. They are under the charge of a Government medical officer, and are assisted by a grant-in-aid from public funds. There is a provincial hospital at Rotuma, which is under the charge of a medical officer who is also Resident Commissioner.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Chief Medical Officer is superintendent. During 1903, there were 14 discharges and 5 deaths, leaving 23 inmates on 31st December. Revenue, £278 4*s.* 3*d.*, expenditure, £617 17*s.* 6*d.*

There is a leper asylum on the island of Beqa. The expenditure during 1902 amounted to £206. The number of inmates on 31st December was 15.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of three European officers, three native sergeants, three native corporals, and one Indian and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above, there are the rural police, consisting of four European sergeants, 13 native sergeants, and 45 native and Indian constables, under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each magistrate's station. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and, in cases of certain adjacent districts, one month, are sent to Suva Gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka Gaols during 1903 was 812. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police during 1903 was 7,530; of these, 996 were offences against the person, 464 larceny, 159 offences against property, and 5,911 other offences—chiefly breaches of the Labour ordinances by indentured immigrants. Of the 7,530 cases reported, 2,270 were dismissed, 5,155 persons were dealt with by summary conviction, and 105 were committed to the Supreme Court. Three persons were executed for murder during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1903, compared with the Census returns of 31st March, 1901:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1903.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	1,580	1,011	2,591
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	800	777	1,577
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	14,233	7,268	21,501
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,617	350	1,967
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,034	1,041	2,075
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	48,522	42,381	90,903
Others	254	213	467	250	210	460
Totals ...	66,874	53,250	120,124	68,036	53,068	121,074

The decrease in the native population during 1903 was 2,481, against 454 in 1902. The birth-rate was 34·73 per mille, and the death-rate, 61·30. The birth-rate amongst Europeans, during the same period, was 36·50, and the death-rate, 19·66. The very heavy mortality among natives was due to a severe epidemic of measles that swept over the Colony in the early part of 1903. Through the exertions of the Medical Department and the Native Office, comparatively few deaths were directly attributable to measles, but the epidemic appears to have had a debilitating effect on the general vitality of the race. Probably many hundreds died from sicknesses they could easily have resisted had they not been previously subjected to measles.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

Measles and influenza were rife at certain seasons in the year, but the mortality of the European part of the population was not seriously affected. The climate of Fiji is healthy and cool for the tropics. A great variety of temperature is to be found in the Group.

(C.) SANITATION.

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which has any system of sewerage; the dry earth system being in use throughout. Sanitary grants of £200 and £100, respectively, are paid to the Town Boards of Suva and Levuka from public funds.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year, recorded at Suva, was 81·09 inches; this is considerably lower than the average. The greatest daily rainfall was 9·18, on the 14th March. The highest temperature in the shade was 96·5, on the 24th December, and the lowest was 59·3, on the 15th July. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The following statement gives the particulars in regard to the Postal Service of the Colony for the year 1903:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters, postcards	371,270	12,239	10,459	117,809	103,369	615,146
Newspapers, books, and packets.	222,321	44,511	5,742	120,396	18,117	411,087
Samples and circulars.	34,533	6,957	1,503	22,805	5,289	71,087
Parcels	—	524	103	2,945	232	3,804
	Including Registered ...			Despatched. 10,001		Received. 8,505

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows, during 1903:—

—	Issued in Colony.	Paid in Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1,622 4 7	371 16 0
Other places	5,574 18 3	536 8 0
Within the Colony	458 15 10	
Total	7,655 18 8	908 4 6

Money orders to the value of £6,395 only were issued in the Colony in 1902, as against £7,655 in 1903.

The subsidy paid for the carriage of mails to the Canadian-Australian steam service was £1,778 8*s.* 2*d.* A subsidy of £583 6*s.* 8*d.* was paid for the Interinsular steam service.

A telegraph, connecting Suva and Levuka, was completed in 1903, at a cost of £2,357 5*s.* 6*d.* The distance by the route selected is 54 miles, 11½ of which is by cable.

There is telephonic communication between Suva and Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) *viâ* Nausori and Ba.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) VOLUNTEERS.

There is a volunteer force in the Colony numbering 185 officers and men. The expenditure on uniforms, ammunition, &c., amounted to £665 2*s.* 7*d.*

(B.) CONSTABULARY.

In addition to the above-mentioned force, there is a body of armed native constabulary, numbering 121 officers and men.

Rifle associations were started in 1903 at Suva, Levuka, Rewa, and Ba. The Government has given them every encouragement and assistance. Rifles are imported for them by Government free of duty, and ammunition is supplied at cost price.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

No roads fit for wheeled traffic exist beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka, except those connecting the plantations of some of the principal sugar factories. There are, however, bridle-tracks everywhere. The longest metalled road is that from Suva to Rewa, a distance of 14 miles.

Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by steam launch between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service from Suva to Lautoka, *viâ* Levuka and Ba. Communication between the islands is maintained by two steamers and a fleet of 120 small sailing vessels, of which 60 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1903, 1,844 Indian immigrants were introduced into the Colony, and 579 returns left for Calcutta. The estimated Indian population in the Colony was 21,501 on the 31st December, 1903, of whom 8,630 were serving under indenture.

The average cost of introduction for the past five years is £15 1*s.* 9*d.* per adult. The labourer has hitherto been recruited through Calcutta, but a new emigration agency was opened in Madras in 1903, in addition to the one at Calcutta. The first arrivals have not altogether been a success. It is probable, however, that a better class of immigrants may be obtained from Madras, should the introduction from that quarter be continued. The indentured Indian comes to Fiji for 10 years, five of which he spends in the service of his employer, and the second five as a free man, working where he pleases. At the end of the ten years he is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of General Revenue.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works for the year 1903 (exclusive of establishments) amounted to £34,902 19*s.* 10*d.*, the main items being:—Maintenance and construction of public buildings, £8,953 15*s.* 9*d.*; water supplies to native villages, £5,413 13*s.* 10*d.*; Levuka wharf renewal and extension, £3,120; bridges, £2,939 13*s.* 6*d.*; Laselase channel, £2,140; telegraph line, Suva to Levuka, £2,357 5*s.* 6*d.*; renewal and reclamation, Suva wharf, £2,278.

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Hon. W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General, was on leave from the 27th January, 1903; the Hon. William Sutherland was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General.

The Hon. Albert Ehrhardt was appointed Attorney-General in succession to the Hon. C. H. H. Irvine, who died on the 5th January. Mr. Ehrhardt arrived in the Colony on the 16th May; Mr. J. K. M. Ross acted as Attorney-General in the intermediate period.

The Hon. B. G. Corney, Chief Medical Officer, acted as Agent-General of Immigration to the 2nd March, and the Hon. G. W. A. Lynch, from 3rd March to the end of the year.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

The three products of sugar, copra, and green fruit made up over 95 per cent. of the export trade of the Colony in 1903.

Cocoa has of late years been taken up by several planters, and an area of about 250 acres has been put in. The growth of the plants is most encouraging, and in the near future there is every likelihood of cocoa appearing as a permanent item on the export list. Cotton planting was one of the staple industries at one period of the history of the country, and there is good ground for hoping that it may again come to the fore with the revived interest in cotton growing. Consideration is now being given to the question as to whether it can again be made a product of the Colony.

The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is principally performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as skilled labourers and overseers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Artisans, carpenters, and boatbuilders, 12*s.* to 14*s.* per diem; painters, 8*s.*; blacksmiths, £4 per week.

The Colony is in a sound financial condition. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £13,228 19*s.* 4*d.* in 1903. On the 31st December, the excess of assets over liabilities amounted to £57,561 17*s.* 10*d.* This sum should be sufficient to meet any deficit caused by hurricane or other disaster.

WM. SUTHERLAND,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1985]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1903
416	Leeward Islands	1902–1903
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda...	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar...	"
423	Sierra Leone	"
424	Gambia	"
425	Ceylon	"
426	Gold Coast	"
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Gold Coast : Northern Territories	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 474.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 434.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1905.

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1905.

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No. 474.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1903 *see* No. 434.)

GOVERNOR SIR E. IM THURN TO MR. LYTTELTON.

Fiji,
Government House, Suva,
7th September, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the enclosed report by the Hon. A. W. Mahaffy, Colonial Secretary, on the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1904.

2. The report indicates that the steady progress which has been taking place during the past few years in the affairs of the Colony has continued, and there is much room for hope that considerably more rapid development may be anticipated in the near future.

3. Since the Blue Book was compiled a new Lands Bill has been introduced into and approved by the Legislative Council, which, if it fortunately meets with your approval and is not disallowed by His Majesty, should give a great impetus to the opening up of the fertile and extensive lands of this Colony. At present only an infinitesimal portion of the country is cultivated, and there remain some four millions of acres to be developed. In this connection it is anticipated that the establishment of the contemplated Board and Department of

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Agriculture and a properly organised and equipped Lands Department will be of the utmost value.

4. It is noteworthy at this stage in the Colony's affairs that the Fiji Sugar Company has, within the last few weeks, sold its interests in the Navua Mill and District to a Vancouver Syndicate with a large command of capital, and that operations at Navua are likely soon to be greatly extended. It is hoped that the attention of other capitalists in Canada and the United States may now be directed to the Colony, in which there yet remain very large areas suitable for the growth of sugar cane and tropical products generally.

5. The recently appointed Superintendent of Agriculture has reported most favourably on those parts of the group that he has already visited, and it is hoped to establish experimental stations next year at a centre in each of the wet and dry districts respectively, at which the Superintendent of Agriculture, assisted by a competent staff, will carry out a series of experiments with products already grown here and others that are not yet, but may eventually be, raised in Fiji.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD IM THURN.

FIJI BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1904.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received under the various heads for the years 1904 and 1903:—

Head of Revenue.	1904.			1903.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	81,967	6	2	84,136	1	7
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	6,525	9	4	5,992	11	4
Native Taxes	14,723	3	10	19,140	0	0
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	11,144	15	11	10,362	9	9
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	17,359	0	8	9,554	6	0
Post Office	3,830	14	2	4,809	7	11
Rent of Government Property ...	582	5	6	695	17	7
Interest	1,401	10	9	1,428	6	7
Miscellaneous	1,594	9	8	2,047	16	2
	139,128	16	0	138,166	16	11
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	276	0	0	—		
Total Revenue ... £	139,401	16	0	138,166	16	11

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1904 and 1903 under the various heads:—

Head of Expenditure.	1904.			1903.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	26,864	15	0	9,218	5	1
Pensions	2,302	3	9	2,325	15	7
The Governor and Legislature ...	3,427	4	7	3,714	12	5
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,999	15	7	2,194	15	9
Government Printing Office	1,899	8	6	1,914	14	4
Audit Department	744	5	8	703	16	0
Postal Department	7,514	1	0	3,896	13	3
Provincial Department	7,926	6	3	8,062	18	11
Treasury...	3,850	19	6	3,440	10	3
Carried forward ...	56,528	19	10	35,472	1	7

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1904.			1903.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s*	*d.*
Brought forward ...	56,528	19	10	35,472	1	7
Customs Department	3,884	17	5	3,648	2	11
Port and Marine Department... ...	2,186	7	8	2,310	16	7
Immigration Department	8,608	14	11	8,243	3	6
Judicial and Legal Department ...	10,118	10	10	9,566	9	6
Police Department	3,652	3	1	3,454	1	11
Armed Native Constabulary	1,781	4	11	2,253	17	0
Volunteer Corps	2,390	5	0	665	2	11
Prisons Department	3,268	0	7	3,258	4	10
Medical Department	10,479	12	4	10,809	0	0
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and Leper Asylum.	3,149	9	6	3,137	0	5
Education	1,975	3	0	928	10	4
Transport	3,521	8	7	1,191	0	5
Transport Extraordinary	17,415	11	1	—		
Miscellaneous	7,084	8	7	3,238	4	11
Lands, Works, and Survey Departments	2,305	2	9	1,869	3	11
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	4,150	11	10	3,810	12	1
	142,500	11	11	93,855	12	10
Public Works Extraordinary	16,144	11	5	31,092	7	9
Total	158,645	3	4	124,948	0	7

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1900	98,621	7	8	95,567	13	2
1901	111,568	17	9	100,022	7	6
1902	132,512	14	4	104,973	6	3
1903	138,166	16	11	113,341	7	10
1904	139,404	16	0	158,166	16	11

The revenue for 1904 includes an extraordinary receipt of £6,939 17*s.* 6*d.*, being repayment of former advances made to Polynesian Immigration Fund. The estimated loss to the revenue as a result of the hurricane in January, 1904, was £8,000. The decrease under the head of "Native Taxes" is due to reduction in the assessment.

The expenditure for 1904 exceeded the estimate by £44,764 7*s.* 7*d.* The increase was due to the following extraordinary items of expenditure:—On account of public debt, £19,460; hurricane relief, £6,000; and cost of new Government steamer "Ranadi," £17,204 (partly expended in 1903, but not brought to account). The excess of expenditure over revenue for the year was met from surplus funds.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The assessment of native taxes has been reduced from £19,740 to £16,531 17*s.* 6*d.* The natives are now learning to use imported goods more than formerly, and thereby increasing their indirect contribution through the Customs. The Council of Chiefs in 1902 recommended that in certain cases money payments might be accepted in lieu of the tax in kind. Almost the entire tax of seven provinces, amounting to some £4,000, is now paid in coin.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony shows an excess of assets on 31st December, 1904, of £48,118 15*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £57,561 17*s.* 10*d.* on 31st December, 1903. The reduction of surplus funds was due to increased repayments of the public debt:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Fixed Deposit	700	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	8,911	7	8			
Bills in transit and maturing	11,000	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Balance in hand on 30th September, 1904	551	4	9			
Emigration Agent, Madras: Balance in hand on 30th September, 1904	85	0	4			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	6	2	0	21,253	14	9
Indian Return-Passages Fund—						
Fixed Deposit	1,000	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	53,608	9	11			
Advance recoverable	10	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	6,458	4	10	61,076	14	9
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Fixed Deposit	218	12	1			
Bank Credit Balance	209	18	2	428	10	3
Native Department Deposit Account—						
Fixed Deposits	5,937	17	3			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	4,252	3	11			
Bank Credit Balance	2,456	8	9	12,646	9	11
Public Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits	7,775	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	19,953	9	4			
Bank Credit Balance	284	13	8	28,013	3	0
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Fixed Deposit	150	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	194	15	6			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	8	18	1	353	13	7
Native Taxes Account—						
Bank Credit Balance	...		...	2,264	19	1
Indian Settlements Fund—						
Fixed Deposits	4,000	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	972	8	3			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	4	18	3			
Advance recoverable	50	0	0	5,027	6	6
Carried forward			...	131,064	11	10

on the 31*st December*, 1904.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—		
Overpaid by Crown Agents	1,989 16 0	
Cheques Unpaid	173 7 3	
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	19,090 11 6	21,253 14 9
Indian Return-Passages Fund—		
Amount to Credit of the Account		61,076 14 9
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—		
Amount to Credit of the Account		428 10 3
Native Department Deposit Account—		
Cheques Unpaid	992 7 9	
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	11,654 2 2	12,646 9 11
Public Trust Account—		
Amount to Credit of the Account		28,013 3 0
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—		
Cheques Unpaid	2 13 8	
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	350 19 11	353 13 7
Native Taxes Account—		
Cheques Unpaid	30 3 9	
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	2,234 15 4	2,264 19 1
Indian Settlements Fund—		
Amount to Credit of the Account		5,027 6 6
Carried forward...		131,064 11 10

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward...				131,064	11	10
Money Order Account—						
Fixed Deposit	1,000	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	939	4	7			
Cash in hand	8	3	0			
				1,947	7	7
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Bank Credit Balance				139	11	7
Estates Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits	680	5	6			
Bank Credit Balance	83	9	1			
				763	14	7
				133,915	5	7
Public Account—						
Invested in Stocks ...	48,941	2	7			
Credit Balance with Crown Agents	145	6	3			
Crown Agents— Advances...	1,300	0	0			
Amounts due to Immigration Department	65	2	0			
Advances recoverable	535	7	8			
Rotuma Advances recoverable	194	13	6			
Suva Water Supply Extension Suspense Account— Amounts recoverable	4,567	11	1			
Bank Credit Balance	4,507	10	0			
Short Credited by Bank	0	0	2			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	2,465	8	1			
				62,722	1	4
Total				196,637	6	11

the 31st December, 1904—*continued.*

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward				131,064	11	10
Money Order Account—						
Cheque Unpaid	1	19	6			
Amount to Credit of the Account	1,945	8	1			
				1,947	7	7
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				139	11	7
Estates Trust Account—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				763	14	7
				133,915	5	7
Public Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	8,822	12	4			
Deposits Repayable	439	6	6			
Suspense Accounts—						
Amounts Repayable	7	2	0			
Indian Introduction Advance Account—						
Amounts Repayable	5,334	4	11			
				14,603	5	9
				148,518	11	4
Excess of Assets				48,118	15	7
Total				196,637	6	11

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1904, was:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial loan (without interest) ...	72,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½%)	91,200	0	0
	£164,015	1	3

A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. The Imperial loan has for many years been repaid at the rate of £1,040 5*s*. 1*d*. per annum, but owing to the improved financial condition of the Colony, a lump sum of £15,500 was repaid in 1904, and the annual payment increased to £5,000. During 1904 the public debt was reduced by £22,500.

(E.) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000.

There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales a branch at Suva. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation being estimated at £5,001.

(F.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure, during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards, and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	1,644	1,529	1,627	1,606
1901 ...	1,994	2,095	2,035	1,963
1902 ...	2,041	2,005	940	1,108
1903 ...	2,051	2,009	919	1,296
1904 ...	2,247	2,808	1,451	2,042

Revenue and Expenditure.

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	719	681	559	557
1901 ...	758	809	768	737
1902 ...	856	785	682	651
1903 ...	1,034	1,094	711	603
1904 ...	1,099	1,309	606	694

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The debt of the Suva Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £2,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. The loan was raised to provide a portion of the cost of construction of a town hall (£1,200), and the renewal of two bridges (£800).

The debt of the Levuka Town Board amounts to £500, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £50 per annum.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1903.	1904.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	2,110	1,929
2. Bags and sugar-mats...	11,530	15,564
3. Beer	4,122	3,996
4. Books	2,203	2,501
5. Boots and shoes	4,767	4,748
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	35,934	34,925
7. Bran and pollard	2,707	2.356
8. Butter and ghee	8,581	7,230
9. Cement...	2,860	2,771
10. Coal	21,512	19,588
11. Cordage	3,131	2,615
12. Cutlery...	3,016	1,943
13. Drapery	78,478	76,068
14. Drugs	6,538	5,277
15. Fish	6,357	6,259

Value of the Principal Imports—cont.

Nature of Import.	1903.	1904.
	£	£
16. Furniture	2,737	3,035
17. Galvanised iron and goods	9,323	9,828
18. Glassware and crockery	2,957	2,194
19. Hardware	44,449	34,726
20. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	15,071	8,016
21. Jewellery	2,950	2,305
22. Leatherware	2,887	3,210
23. Live stock	9,128	10,731
24. Machinery	37,941	17,671
25. Machinery—agricultural	4,733	4,738
26. Manure	7,323	15,743
27. Meats	11,868	11,200
28. Oils	13,787	11,555
29. Paints	2,568	2,518
30. Rice	12,312	11,290
31. Ship chandlery	2,490	2,305
32. Soap	1,704	1,471
33. Spirits	6,742	7,213
34. Stationery	4,229	3,833
35. Sugar	1,409	3,584
36. Timber...	21,212	15,869
37. Tobacco	4,672	4,937
38. Vegetables and green fruit	4,330	3,566
39. Wines	1,834	2,216

The only items showing increases of note are bags and sugar-mats, manure, and sugar. The decreases under the heads of hardware, iron, and machinery are explained by the fact that the large importations in connection with the establishment of a new sugar mill have now ceased.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, and green fruit. The manufacture of distilled spirit, a by-product of the sugar industry, has been discontinued. The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1900 ...	32,961	393,987	15,605	151,701	28,112
1901 ...	31,751	380,155	10,626	107,372	23,175
1902 ...	35,905	347,691	10,683	135,354	25,226
1903 ...	46,438	406,318	8,526	91,050	32,162
1904 ...	52,138	469,391	7,406	86,140	22,102

There is again an increase in the exportation of sugar, which is due to increased cultivation in connection with the new mill at Lautoka.

The principal minor exports, beche-de-mer (£1,384), turtle-shell (£1,344), and vanilla (£1,046) show but little alteration from previous years. The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1900	349,890	619,836
1901	351,182	548,804
1902	526,846	535,170
1903	489,095	554,707
1904	439,995	589,990

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during the past five years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1900	65,[illegible]2
1901	66,875
1902	81,988
1903	84,136
1904	81,967

The bulk of the import trade is done with Sydney, and it is, therefore, somewhat difficult to obtain information as to the importation of British and foreign goods. As far as can be ascertained the importation of German and Belgian goods has increased considerably during the past year, more particularly as regards cotton materials, glassware, hardware, iron, and woodenware.

(B.) MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

The following statement gives particulars as to the various mills, factories, &c., established in the Colony, and the nominal daily output:—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons of dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lbs. of dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	14	
Soapworks	1	9 cwts. of soap.
Saw-mills	4	

Sixteen tons of beche-de-mer, 21 cwt. of pearl-shell, and 14 cwt. of turtle-shell were exported during 1904.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The staple agricultural industry of the Colony is the cultivation of sugar. There are at present six sugar mills in the Colony, four of which are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Sydney. The statement made in despatch of 10th September, 1904 (printed with Blue Book Report for 1903), to the effect that this Company had acquired refining works at Vancouver, was based on a misapprehension. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 36,543 acres, from which were produced 550,740 tons of cane in 1904. The total area of cultivated land in the Colony (exclusive of native cultivation) is estimated at 68,040 acres.

There is a Botanic Station at Suva, from which 1,540 Para rubber plants and 500 Cacao plants were distributed free of charge during 1904.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony is only some 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 425,245 acres, the area of native-owned land being some 4½ million acres. There is an increase in the area of land leased to Indian immigrants who have completed their term of indenture; some 200 blocks, aggregating 2,400 acres, having been leased in 1904, as compared with 137 blocks, aggregating 788 acres, in 1903.

(E.) Shipping.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of entry during 1903 and 1904 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1903.		1904.		1903.		1904.	
		No.	Tons.	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	106	152,755	117	172,890	107	153,684	112	166,151
„	Sailing	15	8,623	13	4,689	15	8,713	12	4,648
American	„	4	1,182	1	610	5	1,196	1	610
Norwegian	Steam	3	585			3	585		
„	Sailing	8	4,994	9	5,572	6	3,891	6	3,591

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1900	96,909	93,911	190,820
1901	105,711	99,590	205,301
1902	174,133	175,522	349,655
1903	168,139	168,069	336,208
1904	183,761	175,000	358,761

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1904:—

IV. "The Foreign Marriage Ordinance, 1904." To provide facilities for persons resident in the Colony to contract marriages in foreign countries under "The Foreign Marriage Act, 1892."

V. "The Native Dealings Ordinance, 1904," makes provision for the recovery of debts due by natives.

VII. "The Death and Fire Inquiry Amendment Ordinance, 1904." In the case of fires caused by natives, the Governor in Council may order the natives of the district in which the fire occurred to pay the whole or part of the assessed damages.

IX. "The Native Lands Amendment Ordinance, 1904," empowers the Native Commissioner to take proceedings on behalf of native lessors.

XI. "The Crop Lien Ordinance, 1904." To regulate the creation of liens for advances on crops.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between 6 and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these School Boards—one in Suva with four teachers and an attendance of 139·1, and one in Levuka with two teachers and 88 scholars. These schools are inspected annually of being elected a member of the Legislative Council.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony with an average attendance of 141.

The education of the natives throughout the group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,328 schools with 2,544 teachers and 18,845 scholars, and the latter 163 schools with 200 teachers and 1,880 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer assisted by a Matron, two staff nurses, and four pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1904 there were 1,413 patients admitted to hospital, of whom 131 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,154 15*s.* 6*d.* and the expenditure to £2,907 19*s.* 9*d.* There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. They are under the charge of Government medical officers, and are maintained by Government from public funds assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefited. One of the hospitals was destroyed by a hurricane early in the year, and was not re-erected until November. The number of patients admitted to these hospitals during 1904 was 1,986. There is also a provincial hospital at Rotuma under the charge of a medical officer, who is also Resident Commissioner.

(B.) Asylums.

The Lunatic Asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent. During 1904 there were 13 admissions, 12 discharges, and 5 deaths, leaving 17 inmates on 31st December.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Beqa. The expenditure during 1904 amounted to £249 15*s.* 6*d.* The number of inmates on 31st December was 16.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force in the towns of Suva and Levuka consists of four European officers, two native sergeants, three native corporals, and one Indian and twenty-eight native constables under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the Rural Police, consisting of four European sergeants, eleven native sergeants, and forty-four Indian and native constables, under the control of the magistrates in the various districts.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols—one at Suva and one at Levuka—under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each magistrate's station. Prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and in the case of certain adjacent districts one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners admitted to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1904 was 934. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police during 1904 was 8,238. Of these 1,054 were offences against the person, 465 larceny, 185 offences against property, and 6,534 other offences, chiefly breaches of the Labour Ordinances by indentured labourers. Of the 8,238 cases reported 2,271 were dismissed, 5,881 persons were dealt with by summary conviction, and 86 were committed to the Supreme Court. Two persons were executed for murder during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A. POPULATION.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1904, as compared with the census returns of 31st March, 1901:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1904.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	1,586	1,037	2,623
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	824	791	1,615
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	15,028	7,757	22,785
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,624	335	1,959
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,119	1,157	2,276
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	48,076	41,987	90,063
Others	254	213	467	247	205	452
Totals ...	66,874	53,250	120,120	68,504	53,269	121,773

The decrease in the native population during 1904 is estimated at 840, as compared with 2,481 in 1903, the heavy death-rate in that year being due to an epidemic of measles. The native birth-rate during 1904 was 39·52 per 1,000, and the death-rate 48·90 per 1,000. The birth-rate amongst Europeans was 27·44 and the death-rate 15·25 per 1,000.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

There was an absence of epidemic sickness during the year. Whooping-cough occurred in some localities, but did not become general. The admissions to the Suva Hospital included 151 cases of dysentery, 11 of whom were Europeans; and 16 cases of enteric fever, nine of whom were Europeans. Measures have been taken to eradicate Yaws from among the native population, and some measure of success has been attained. Many obstacles present themselves, however, the foremost being native superstition and obstinacy.

(C.) SANITATION.

Neither of the two European towns in the Colony have any system of sanitary drainage, the dry-earth system being used. Sanitary grants of £200 and £100 are paid to the Town Boards of Suva and Levuka respectively.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1904 was 120·39 inches. The greatest daily rainfall was 5·25 inches on the 17th June. The highest temperature in the shade was 91·8 on 5th January, and the lowest, 59·8, on 25th June. There were two cyclonic storms during the year.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Particulars regarding the postal service of the Colony for 1904 are given in the following table:—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters and post-cards.	401,381	15,114	15,274	120,745	127,303	679,817
Newspapers ...	222,488	48,422	6,210	120,804	20,211	418,135
Book packet, samples and circulars.	36,442	7,142	1,694	26,116	5,288	76,682
Parcels	—	530	203	3,000	244	3,977
Telegrams ...	5,023	—	—	—	—	5,023
	Including Registered ...			Despatched. 10,642		Received. 8,650

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during 1904:—

—	Issued in Colony.			Paid in Colony.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	1,862	16	11	493	10	5
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	6,403	4	9	1,085	7	11
Within the Colony	772	12	1			
Total	9,038	0	0	1,578	18	4

An annual subsidy for the carriage of mails of £2,045 9*s.* 1*d.* is paid to the Canadian-Australian Steam Service. A sum of £3,500 is also paid as subsidy for an interinsular steam service.

Telegraphic communication is established between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ is by cable. The total cost of construction was £4,000.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) viâ Nausori and Ba.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) VOLUNTEERS.

There is a volunteer force in the Colony numbering 175 officers and men. The expenditure on uniforms, ammunition, &c., amounted to £539. New rifles and accoutrements and two machine guns were supplied at a cost of £1,851.

(B.) CONSTABULARY.

There is a body of armed native constabulary, numbering 84 officers and men.

There are rifle clubs at Suva and Levuka, and also at the principal sugar centres. Rifles are issued to these Associations on a system of deferred payment, and ammunition is supplied at less than cost price.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic. There is a metalled road from Suva to Rewa—a distance of 14 miles. Bridle tracks exist almost everywhere. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by steam launch between Suva and the sugar districts of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service to Lautoka viâ Levuka and Ba. Communication between the islands is maintained by two steamers and a fleet of 190 small sailing vessels, of which 116 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1904, 1,195 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta and 324 were repatriated. The average cost of introduction for the past five years is £14 16*s.* 8*d.* Indian immigrants come to the Colony for a term of ten years, the first five of which is under indenture. At the end of ten years an immigrant is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of public funds.

On 31st December, 1904, the estimated Indian population was 22,790, of whom 9,776 were under indenture. The estimated area of land under cultivation by free Indians is 8,172 acres.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works for the year 1903 (exclusive of establishments) was £20,295. In addition to this sum an amount of £4,567 11*s.* 1*d.* was expended on extension of the Suva water supply, and charged to a suspense account. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £15,000. The main items of expenditure were:—Maintenance and construction of public buildings, £5,901; water supplies to native villages, £2,446; extension of Levuka wharf, £4,242; construction and repair of roads, £2,191; bridges, £1,607.

CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION.

By Letters Patent, dated 21st March, 1904, and proclaimed in force on 15th November, a measure of representative government was granted to the Colony. The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, ten official members, six elected members, and two native members.

Every male person is entitled to be registered as an elector, and when registered to vote at the election of elected members of the Council who—

(1) Is the son of parents of European descent;

(2) Is a British subject by birth or naturalisation having effect in the Colony;

(3) Is of the age of 21 years or upwards;

(4) Has been continuously resident in the Colony for 12 months; and

(5) Is possessed of—

(*a*) Either of freehold of leasehold property, or both, within the Colony, of the total yearly value of twenty pounds over and above all charges and encumbrances affecting the same; or

(*b*) Of a net annual income, from all sources of not less than one hundred and twenty pounds.

The elected members of the Council are elected as follows:—

(1) Three members by persons duly qualified as electors, who are resident in the towns of Suva or Levuka. Two of such members are elected as representatives of Suva, and one is elected to represent Levuka.

(2) Three members by persons duly qualified as electors, who are engaged, either on their own behalf or in the employ of other persons, in the cultivation of land or the management of farms within the Colony of not less than 100 acres in extent, or in the production and manufacture of sugar, provided that the annual salary or wages derived from such employment be not less than £120.

No person who is in receipt of salary payable out of the public revenue of the Colony is capable of being an elector or of being elected a member of the Legislative Council.

The native members are appointed as follows:—

> The Great Council of Native Chiefs in the Colony submits to the Governor the names of not more than six persons, being aboriginal natives of the Colony, who are able to speak and understand the English language, and from the persons so submitted the Governor selects two persons who upon such selection become members of the Legislative Council.

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir H. M. Jackson left the Colony on leave on 23rd March, and was subsequently appointed Governor of Trinidad. Mr. E. F. im Thurn, C.B., C.M.G., was appointed Governor on 21st June, and arrived in the Colony on 11th October. His Honour C. Major, Chief Justice, administered the Government from 23rd March to 10th October.

Mr. A. Mahaffy was appointed Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General on 8th October.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

At present the three principal exports—sugar, copra, and green fruit (chiefly bananas)—represent over 97 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. It is hoped that the Agricultural Department, recently established, will tend to foster minor products, such as cocoa, vanilla, rubber, &c.

The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as overseers or skilled labourers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Artisans, carpenters, and boat builders, 12*s.* to 14*s.* per diem; painters, 8*s.*; blacksmiths, £4 per week, overseers, £2 to £5 per week.

The general condition of the Colony is satisfactory. For several years the revenue has exceeded the expenditure, and the surplus fund thus accumulated, and amounting on 31st December, 1904, to £48,118 15*s.* 7*d.*, should be sufficient to meet any deficit due to hurricane or other disaster.

A statement showing the revenue and expenditure and trade of the Colony for the past twenty years, and also a return giving particulars of principal exports have been prepared by the Colonial Auditor, and are appended hereto.

ARTHUR MAHAFFY,
Colonial Secretary.

RETURN SHOWING PARTICULARS OF EXPORT FOR 20 YEARS.

Year.		Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.				Distilled Spirits.		Other Kinds.	Total.	Year.	
		Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bunches.	Cases.	Packages.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Value.	Value.		
			£		£				£		£	£	£		
1885	...	10,586	211,730	5,235	64,391	277,973	5,073	22	23,905	1,082	189	26,535	326,750	...	1885
1886	...	11,716	187,456	5,217	49,564	261,741	4,956	32	22,623	338	59	23,794	283,496	...	1886
1887	...	12,831	205,294	1,824	17,324	359,294	6,096	9	30,610	4,285	750	27,102	281,080	...	1887
1888	...	16,916	270,649	4,048	38,458	517,666	4,073	595	42,279	8,159	1,428	24,164	376,978	...	1888
1889	...	13,178	263,554	5,507	39,159	531,008	4,471	28	42,525	6,551	1,146	17,898	364,282	...	1889
1890	...	15,291	244,655	4,500	40,499	720,788	4,333	637	57,525	4,419	773	21,081	364,533	...	1890
1891	...	20,471	327,526	6,445	59,618	784,765	2,281	1,597	61,501	3,075	538	25,151	474,334	...	1891
1892	...	18,883	302,133	5,937	49,724	788,100	5,555	3	62,442	—	—	20,492	434,791	...	1892
1893	...	15,389	246,231	4,939	43,549	348,599	17,421	—	36,598	106,921	13,365	15,889	355,632	...	1893
1894	...	27,265	436,245	6,932	68,045	390,746	33,014	—	49,114	133,972	16,746	11,502	581,652	...	1894
1895	...	23,210	208,889	10,908	94,084	114,024	20,725	—	20,987	—	—	8,249	332,209	...	1895
1896	...	27,334	336,929	6,112	54,142	207,352	34,934	—	18,488	78,890	10,163	15,620	435,242	...	1896
1897	...	26,991	323,830	8,257	74,413	209,722	31,308	1	16,514	15,041	1,880	15,223	431,860	...	1897
1898	...	34,156	409,884	6,985	68,253	364,486	40,730	—	25,478	111,088	13,886	16,604	534,105	...	1898
1899	...	28,403	340,603	7,617	77,330	463,985	47,226	—	30,607	132,440	16,343	16,973	481,856	...	1899
1900	...	32,961	393,987	16,361	157,704	396,242	46,224	—	28,112	158,224	28,839	11,194	619,836	...	1900
1901	...	31,751	380,155	11,351	114,903	271,436	57,526	—	23,175	137,937	17,232	13,340	548,805	...	1901
1902	...	35,906	347,691	11,872	149,212	291,816	66,587	11	25,226	29,299	3,579	9,463	535,171	...	1902
1903	...	46,438	406,318	9,851	104,049	328,013	96,827	—	32,162	4,946	374	11,804	554,707	...	1903
1904	...	52,138	469,391	7,729	89,898	421,460	66,766	—	22,102	—	—	8,600	589,991	...	1904

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, TRADE, AND NAVIGATION FOR 20 YEARS.

Year.	Customs Dues.	Native Taxes.	Other Sources.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Imports.	Exports.	Ships Entered and Cleared.		Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	Tonnage.	
1885	31,612	17,094	27,963	76,669	92,209	—	15,540	301,031	326,750	259	109,948	1885
1886	29,351	9,464	25,759	64,574	78,133	—	13,559	230,629	283,496	231	105,369	1886
1887	24,669	16,416	23,831	64,916	73,151	—	8,235	188,071	281,080	237	91,767	1887
1888	24,572	19,652	20,795	65,019	58,993	6,026	—	183,222	376,978	216	101,127	1888
1889	27,131	17,185	19,406	63,722	57,710	6,012	—	189,393	364,282	170	98,523	1889
1890	26,159	20,771	19,887	66,817	60,826	5,991	—	206,757	364,533	168	117,355	1890
1891	31,269	20,915	19,066	71,250	67,820	3,430	—	253,049	474,334	198	138,141	1891
1892	32,426	18,256	20,871	71,553	67,652	3,901	—	253,586	434,791	182	137,309	1892
1893	36,639	17,436	22,699	76,774	85,982	—	9,208	276,398	355,632	177	147,388	1893
1894	37,677	18,679	23,698	80,054	72,204	7,850	—	285,981	581,652	270	258,913	1894
1895	35,197	19,784	23,259	78,240	76,204	2,036	—	241,759	332,209	281	235,402	1895
1896	34,220	17,986	21,663	73,869	73,099	770	—	242,492	435,342	261	231,056	1896
1897	32,994	19,217	22,281	74,492	73,232	1,260	—	248,748	431,860	256	248,015	1897
1898	45,301	18,923	29,941	94,165	87,595	6,570	—	234,850	534,105	254	266,519	1898
1899	52,631	20,768	25,222	98,621	95,567	3,054	—	263,044	481,856	255	255,447	1899
1900	65,933	19,295	26,341	111,569	100,022	11,547	—	349,890	619,836	221	190,820	1900
1901	66,875	19,172	27,806	113,853	104,973	8,880	—	351,183	548,805	229	205,301	1901
1902	81,988	19,208	31,317	132,513	113,342	19,171	—	526,847	535,171	275	349,655	1902
1903	84,136	19,140	34,891	138,167	124,948	13,219	—	489,096	554,707	272	336,208	1903
1904	81,967	14,723	42,643	139,333	158,645	—	19,312	439,995	589,991	271	358,761	1904
Totals	882,747	364,084	509,339	1,756,170 1,722,307	1,722,307	99,717 65,854	65,854	—	—	—	—	
	Surplus for 20 years			33,863	—	33,863						

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
445	Leeward Islands	1903–1904
446	St. Vincent	,,
447	Bermuda...	1904
448	St. Helena	,,
449	Falkland Islands	,,
450	Weihaiwei	,,
451	Hong Kong	,,
452	Gambia ...	,,
453	Gibraltar...	,,
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
455	British Honduras	,,
456	Seychelles	,,
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
458	Straits Settlements	,,
459	Southern Nigeria	,,
460	Sierra Leone	,,
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada ...	1904
464	St. Vincent	,,
465	Gold Coast	,,
466	Barbados...	1904–1905
467	Uganda ...	,,
468	Somaliland	,,
469	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas...	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	,,
473	Mauritius	1904

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada ...	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon ...	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

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1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 509.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 474.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1906.

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1906.

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No. 509.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 474.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
6th October, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a report by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary on the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1905.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD IM THURN.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 23907 11/1906 D & S 5 26415

FIJI BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1905.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received under the various heads for the years 1905 and 1904 :—

Head of Revenue.	1905.			1904.		
	£	s.	d	£	s.	d.
Customs	82,725	0	6	81,957	6	2
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	6,554	16	8	6,525	9	4
Native Taxes	15,477	8	7	14,723	3	10
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	12,692	5	11	11,144	15	11
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	11,285	19	9	17,359	0	8
Post Office	4,717	14	5	3,830	14	2
Rent of Government Property ...	560	9	3	582	5	6
Interest	1,444	15	3	1,401	10	9
Miscellaneous	1,142	5	8	1,594	9	8
Land Sales	20	0	0	276	0	0
"Indian Return Passage Fund" transferred.	56,353	19	2	—		
Total Revenue ... £	192,974	15	2	139,404	16	0

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1905 and 1904 under the various heads :—

Head of Expenditure.	1905.			1904.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	15,245	10	0	26,864	15	0
Pensions	2,789	16	8	2,302	3	9
The Governor and Legislature ...	3,785	6	2	3,427	4	7
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,231	13	4	1,999	15	7
Government Printing Office	2,255	1	0	1,899	8	6
Audit Department	752	12	8	744	5	8
Postal Department	7,379	1	9	7,514	1	0
Native Department	8,111	10	6	7,926	6	3
Treasury...	3,499	0	10	3,850	19	6
Carried forward ...	46,049	12	11	56,528	19	10

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1905.			1904.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	46,049	12	11	56,528	19	10
Customs Department	4,120	5	4	3,884	17	5
Port and Marine Department ...	2,636	8	10	2,186	7	8
Immigration Department	2,145	16	9	8,608	14	11
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	10,668	12	10	10,118	10	10
Police Department	4,370	13	2	3,652	3	1
Armed Native Constabulary	1,980	16	6	1,781	4	11
Volunteer Corps	517	7	5	2,390	5	0
Prisons Department	4,106	17	0	3,268	0	7
Medical Department	11,235	1	4	10,479	12	4
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Asylum:	3,342	5	11	3,149	9	6
Education	1,749	10	2	1,975	3	0
Transport	4,340	17	4	20,936	19	8
Agricultural Department	1,212	2	5	—		
Miscellaneous	2,223	18	9	7,084	8	7
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	2,547	17	1	2,305	2	9
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	5,492	7	7	4,150	11	10
	108,740	11	4	142,500	11	11
Public Works Extraordinary	10,265	1	0	16,144	11	5
Suva Water Supply Extension ...	13,037	10	2	—		
Total	132,043	2	6	158,645	3	4

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1901	111,568	17	9	100,022	7	6
1902	132,512	14	4	104,975	6	3
1903	138,166	16	11	113,341	7	10
1904	139,404	16	0	158,166	16	11
1905	192,974	15	2	132,043	2	6

The revenue for 1905 includes an extraordinary receipt of £56,353 19*s.* 2*d.*, being the amount of the Indian Return Passage Fund transferred to general revenue. Reference to this transfer is made under the head of Legislation. Excluding this extraordinary item of receipt, the revenue for the year 1905 amounted to £136,620 16*s.*, being an increase of £4,155 17*s.* 6*d.* over the revenue for 1904, after deducting from that year a similar extraordinary receipt of £6,939 17*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure for 1905 exceeded the estimate by £3,605 8*s.* 7*d.*, of which £2,000 was a payment on account of public debt due in 1904, but not paid till 1905.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The native tax, which was assessed for 1905 at £16,531 17*s*. 6*d*., has hitherto been paid in kind, but in 1902 the Council of Chiefs recommended that in certain cases money payments might be accepted. In 1904 seven provinces, assessed at some £4,000, paid their tax in coin; in 1905 the amount of tax paid in coin was some £5,200.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony shows an excess of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1905, of £108,995 13*s*. 3*d*. as compared with £48,118 15*s*. 7*d*. on 31st December, 1904. The large increase of assets is chiefly due to the transfer to general funds of the accumulated balances of the Indian Return Passages Fund, the Colony having assumed the liability which the fund was created to meet, viz., the repatriation of Indian immigrants introduced as plantation labourers.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1905.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Bank Credit Balance	9,392	14	7			
Bills in transit and maturing	12,000	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta:						
Balance in hand on 30th September, 1905	1,361	7	1			
Emigration Agent, Madras:						
Balance in hand on 30th November, 1905	74	5	5			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	97	15	0			
				22,926	2	1
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Fixed Deposit	224	1	7			
Bank Credit Balance	2,333	7	5			
				2,557	9	0
Native Department Deposit Account—						
Fixed Deposits	5,503	13	11			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	4,252	3	11			
Bank Credit Balance	2,961	0	0			
				12,716	17	10
Public Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits	1,702	0	0			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	19,953	9	4			
Bank Credit Balance	2,064	5	8			
Amount paid on account of transfer of Stocks	5,000	0	0			
				28,719	15	0
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Fixed Deposit	150	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	135	13	7			
				285	13	7
Native Taxes Account—						
Bank Credit Balance				6,812	17	7
Indian Settlements Fund—						
Fixed Deposits	4,500	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	654	1	9			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	2	0	0			
Advance recoverable	100	0	0			
				5,256	1	9
Money Order Account—						
Fixed Deposit	1,000	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	1,410	9	5			
Cash in hand	9	0	9			
				2,419	10	2
Carried forward				£81,694	7	0

on the 31*st December*, 1905.

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Overpaid by Crown Agents	8,611	12	9			
Cheques Unpaid	58	19	4			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	14,255	10	0			
				22,926	2	1
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Cheques unpaid	5	18	6			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	2,551	10	6			
				2,557	9	0
Native Department Deposit Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	516	4	10			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	12,200	13	0			
				12,716	17	10
Public Trust Account—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				28,719	15	0
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				285	13	7
Native Taxes Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	6,010	19	8			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	801	17	11			
				6,812	17	7
Indian Settlements Fund—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				5,256	1	9
Money Order Account—						
Cheque Unpaid	15	0	0			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	2,404	10	3			
				2,419	10	2
Carried forward...				£81,694	7	0

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward...				81,694	7	0
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Bank Credit Balance				214	9	11
Estates Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits	683	9	1			
Bank Credit Balance	85	12	11	769	2	0
				82,677	18	11
Public Account—						
Invested in Stocks				102,476	5	6
Credit Balance with Crown Agents				1,349	14	7
Bills maturing in London				8,000	0	0
Amounts due to Immigration Department				10	7	0
Advances recoverable				255	8	1
Rotuma Advances recoverable				98	14	9
Colonial Secretary's House : Amounts recoverable ...				24	7	6
Bank Credit Balance				9,518	1	5
Paid into Bank after the close of the year				9,668	19	11
Total				214,079	17	8

the 31st December, 1905—*continued.*

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward				81,694	7	0
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				214	9	11
Estates Trust Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	12	10	0			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	756	12	0			
				769	2	0
				82,677	18	11
Public Account—						
Cheques Unpaid				13,204	4	9
Deposits Repayable				823	19	10
Amount received on Account of transfer of Stocks ...				5,000	0	0
Indian Introduction Advance Account:						
Amounts Repayable				3,378	0	11
				105,084	4	5
Excess of Assets				108,995	13	3
Total				214,079	17	8

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony was, on 31st December, 1905 :—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial loan (without interest) ...	65,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½°/o)	87,000	0	0
	£152,815	1	3

A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. The Imperial loan is now being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. During 1905 the public debt was reduced by £11,200.

(E.) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales a branch at Suva. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation being estimated at £4,353.

(F.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town and School Boards :—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	1,994	2,095	2,035	1,963
1902 ...	2,041	2,005	940	1,108
1903 ...	2,051	2,009	919	1,296
1904 ...	2,247	2,808	1,451	2,042
1905 ...	2,968	3,069	1,452	1,065

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	758	809	768	737
1902 ...	856	785	682	651
1903 ...	1,034	1,094	711	603
1904 ...	1,099	1,309	606	694
1905 ...	1,106	1,065	665	651

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The debt of the Suva Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £2,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. The loan was raised to provide a portion of the cost of construction of a Town Hall (£1,200), and the renewal of two bridges (£800). On 31st December, 1905, the debt stood at £1,900. The debt of the Levuka Town Board amounts to £500, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £50 per annum.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years :—

Nature of Import.	1904.	1905.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams	1,929	2,031
2. Bags and sugar-mats...	15,564	14,730
3. Beer	3,956	3,861
4. Books	2,501	2,030
5. Boots and shoes	4,748	5,070
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits	34,925	31,287
7. Bran and pollard	2,356	3,368
8. Butter and ghee	7,230	8,822
9. Cement...	2,771	3,099
10. Coal	19,588	23,253
11. Cordage	2,615	2,902
12. Cutlery...	1,943	2,315
13. Drapery	76,068	75,767
14. Drugs	5,277	4,973
15. Fish	6,259	5,936

Nature of Import.	1904.	1905.
	£	£
16. Furniture	3,035	2,995
17. Galvanised iron and goods	9,828	9,349
18. Glassware and crockery	2,194	2,714
19. Hardware	34,726	28,164
20. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	8,016	6,183
21. Jewellery	2,305	2,482
22. Leatherware	3,210	4,480
23. Live-stock	10,731	17,076
24. Machinery	17,671	21,032
25. Machinery—agricultural	4,738	6 727
26. Manure	15,743	4,235
27. Meats	11,200	9,589
28. Oils	11,555	13,011
29. Paints	2,518	3,103
30. Rice	11,290	7,549
31. Ship chandlery	2,305	2,300
32. Soap	1,471	1,695
33. Spirits	7,213	7,209
34. Stationery	3,833	4,580
35. Sugar	3,584	5,280
36. Timber...	15,869	17,885
37. Tobacco	4,937	5,313
38. Vegetables and green fruit	3,566	6,916
39. Wines	2,216	2,011

The only items showing increases of note are coal, live-stock, and machinery.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, and green fruit. The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years are given in the following statement:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1901 ...	31,751	380,155	10,626	107,372	23,175
1902 ...	35,905	347,691	10,683	135,354	25,226
1903 ...	46,438	406,318	8,526	91,050	32,162
1904 ...	52,138	469,391	7,406	86,140	22,102
1905 ...	58,488	539,594	10,200	125,892	28,996

There has been a further increase in the exportation of sugar, due to increased cultivation. The increase of 2,794 tons of copra exported in 1905 as compared with 1904 is partly due to the fact that a larger quantity than usual was awaiting shipment at the end of 1904, and appears as exported in 1905.

The principal minor exports, bêche-de-mer (£1,854), turtle-shell (£1,329), peanuts (£794), and cocoanuts (£737) show but little alteration from previous years. The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1901	351,182	548,804
1902	526,846	535,170
1903	489,095	554,707
1904	439,995	589,990
1905	442,852	706,403

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1901	66,875
1902	81,988
1903	84,136
1904	81,967
1905	82,725

The bulk of the import trade is done with Sydney, and it is therefore somewhat difficult to obtain information as to the importation of British and foreign goods. As far as can be ascertained there has been a further increase during the year in the importation of German and Belgian goods, more particularly as regards cotton materials, glassware, hardware, iron, woodenware, and lager beer.

(B.) MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the various mills, factories, &c., established in the Colony and the nominal daily output:—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lb. dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	14	
Soapworks	1	9 cwt. soap.
Saw-mills	4	
Rice mills	2	

Twenty-five tons of bêche-de-mer, 6 tons of pearlshell, and 14 cwt. of turtle-shell were exported during 1905.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanic Stations.

The cultivation of sugar forms the staple agricultural industry of the Colony. There are at present six sugar mills in the Colony, of which four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., of Sydney. The mill in the Navua district, owned by the Fiji Sugar Co., has recently changed hands and is now the property of the Vancouver-Fiji Sugar Co. It is proposed to erect a new mill and considerably extend operations in this district. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 40,012 acres, from which were produced, during 1905, 396,090 tons of cane. The total area of cultivated land in the Colony (exclusive of native cultivation) is estimated at 72,672 acres.

A Department of Agriculture has been established under the charge of a Superintendent. There will be two experimental stations in connection with the Department in charge of European overseers.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony is estimated at 25,200 acres, of which 18,200 acres were acquired during 1905. The area of land held by Europeans under grant is 426,346 acres, the area of native-owned land being some 4½ million acres. During 1905 some 14,600 acres of native land were leased to Europeans, Indians, and others at an annual rental of £2,900. During the same period 2,194 acres of native land were purchased by Europeans for £2,015.

(E.) Shipping.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of entry during 1904 and 1905 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1904.		1905.		1904.		1905.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	117	172,890	120	186,222	112	166,151	119	184,434
„	Sailing	13	4,689	10	2,608	12	4,648	9	252
American	„	1	610	2	1,097	1	610	2	1,097
Norwegian	Steam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„	Sailing	9	5,572	3	2,551	6	3,591	6	4,368

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years :—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1901	105,711	99,590	205,301
1902	174,133	175,522	349,655
1903	168,139	168,069	336,208
1904	183,761	175,000	358,761
1905	194,299	193,102	387,401

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1905.

IV. "The Punishments Amendment Ordinance, 1905," enables the punishment of whipping or flogging to be inflicted in cases (1) of juvenile offenders whom it may be undesirable to send to gaol, and (2) of persons guilty of crimes of violence.

V. "The Mother-of-Pearl Ordinance, 1905," provides for the granting of licences for the exclusive or other right to fish for mother-of-pearl oysters on any specified portion of the reefs or waters of the Group. It has been introduced in view of the possibility of an attempt being made to lay down oyster beds.

XI. "The Native Lands Ordinance, 1905," consolidates and amends the law relating to native land tenure. It is mainly a re-enactment of the provisions of previous legislation, but contains a new and important provision enabling natives to sell portions of their lands. The consent of the Governor in Council is essential to this right, and it is provided that consent may be refused in any case, but must be withheld if the land in question is necessary for the support of the native owners, or where the bargain is inequitable.

XIII. "The Animals Protection Amendment Ordinance, 1905," extends the period of the close season for certain birds, and deprives the mynah bird of a measure of the protection hitherto accorded to it.

XIV. "The Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance, 1905," confers on the Governor the same power to acquire native lands for public purposes as he already has in respect of other lands.

XV. "The Towns Amendment Ordinance, 1905," provides for the increase of the general rate from 1*s*. to 2*s*. in the pound, subject to the consent of the Governor in Council.

XVI. "The Fiji Constabulary Ordinance, 1905," gives effect to His Excellency the Governor's scheme for the reconstruction and amalgamation of the constabulary and police forces of the Colony.

XX. "The Indian Immigration Amendment Ordinance, 1905," provides a scheme by which small planters may obtain immigrants on a system of deferred payments. The "Return Passage Fund" is abolished and the Receiver General is directed to pay into the general revenue the balance standing to the credit of the fund. The fund was created for the purpose of providing for the repatriation of Indian immigrants introduced as plantation labourers. In every year a certain sum—originally fixed at 15*s*., but subsequently reduced to 12*s*. and again to 10*s*.—was withdrawn from general revenue and paid into the fund in respect of each adult immigrant introduced into the Colony and indentured within the ten years next preceding the date of such payment, whether such immigrant was alive and in the Colony or not. Experience having proved that, owing to the large number of immigrants who settle permanently in the Colony, the funds thus provided largely exceeded all ordinary demands made on them, the accumulated balance has been returned to general revenue and the cost of repatriation will in future be provided by a vote on the annual Estimates.

XXI. "The Indian Hemp Prohibition Ordinance, 1905," prohibits the importation of Indian hemp or any product or preparation thereof, except with the consent of the Chief Medical Officer.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between 6 and 14 years of age. The subjects of an ordinary education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with four teachers and an attendance of 132·38 and one in Levuka with two teachers and 88 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony with an average attendance of 141.

The education of the natives throughout the Group is entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,151 schools with 2,544 teachers and 18,130 scholars and the latter 163 schools with 200 teachers and 1,900 scholars.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer assisted by a Matron, two Staff nurses, and four pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1905 there were 1,380 patients admitted to hospital of whom 108 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to 1,929*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* and the expenditure to 2,934*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. They are under the charge of Government Medical Officers and are maintained by Government from public funds assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefitted. The number of patients admitted to these hospitals during 1905 was 3,333 as compared with 1,986 in 1904. In addition to this 15,511 out-patients were treated during 1905. There is also a provincial hospital at Rotuma under the charge of a Medical Officer who is also Resident Commissioner.

(B.) Asylums.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Senior Medical Officer is superintendent. During 1905 there were 17 admissions, 9 discharges, and 4 deaths, leaving 22 inmates on 31st December, 1905.

There is a leper asylum on the Island of Beqa, on which the expenditure during 1905 amounted to £259 19*s.* The number of inmates on 31st December was 23.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

It is proposed to amalgamate the Police Force and the Armed Native Constabulary, and the necessary legislation for effecting this change was passed during 1905. Under the new scheme the Fiji Constabulary will be under the charge of an Inspector-General and will consist of 1 chief inspector, 8 European sub-inspectors, 1 pay-and-quartermaster, 4 native sub-inspectors, 15 native sergeants, 9 native corporals, 20 first-class native constables, 38 second-class native constables, 23 third-class native constables, 1 Indian sergeant, 4 first-class Indian constables, 5 second-class Indian constables, 6 third-class Indian constables, and 3 buglers. The annual cost of the Force as reconstructed is estimated at £8,615. The cost of the old Police Force and Armed Native Constabulary amounted in 1905 to £6,351 9*s*. 8*d*.

(B.) Prisons.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each magistrate's station. Prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and in the case of certain adjacent districts one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners admitted to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1905 was 1,008. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported to the Police during 1905 was 5,535. Of these 834 were offences against the person, 333 larceny, 380 offences against property, and 3,988 other offences—chiefly breaches of the labour ordinances by indentured labourers.

Of the 5,535 cases reported, 1,194 were dismissed, 4,227 persons were dealt with by summary conviction, and 114 were committed to the Supreme Court. Six persons were executed for murder during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A. POPULATION.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1905, as compared with the census returns of 31st March, 1901.

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1905.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	1,604	1,068	2,675
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	844	805	1,649
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	17,089	8,863	25,952
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,691	356	2,047
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,134	1,147	2,281
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,421	41,395	86,816
Others	254	213	467	247	205	452
Totals ...	66,874	53,250	120,124	68,033	53,839	121,872

The estimated native population on 31st December, 1904, was 86,683. During 1905 there were 3,431 births, and 3,298 deaths registered, showing a net increase of population by 133. The birth-rate per mille was 38·52 and the death-rate 37·99. The birth-rate per mille amongst Europeans was 33·27 and the death-rate 13·83.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year was uneventful in regard to disturbances of the public health. There was, as heretofore, a complete absence of malarial disease; and such inconsiderable epidemics of influenza as occurred proved mild in degree and transient in duration. The gastro-intestinal and the nervous types predominated.

One of the coolie steamers brought nine cases, recorded during the voyage as modified small-pox, from Calcutta; but continued observation of them at the quarantine island, and of six new cases which developed there among the "contacts," proved them to be merely varicella. They recovered without incident.

There were also a small number of cases of measles among Indian coolies, the infection being likewise brought by immigrant steamers from Calcutta; but this did not spread to the European settlers, nor to the native Fijians, nearly all of whom were protected by previous attacks during the epidemic of 1903. No deaths occurred from this cause.

The season was a phenomenally dry one for Fiji, the rainfall amounting to only 70 inches at Suva (one of the wettest localities), and more than half of this fell in the months of January, March, and December. The mean humidity of the air was 72 per cent., and the mean force of the wind barely 2 (0–12 scale). These atmospheric conditions made the cool season an agreeable one for Europeans, and did not in any way depreciate the accustomed standard of public health.

(C.) Sanitation.

Neither of the two European towns in the Colony has any system of sanitary drainage, the dry earth system being used. The Town Boards of Suva and Levuka are paid sanitary grants of £200 and £100 respectively.

(D.) Climate.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1905 was 73·03 inches. The greatest daily rainfall was 6·04 inches on the 20th December.

The highest temperature in the shade was 92·5 on the 22nd February, and the lowest 57·3 on the 1st September.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Particulars regarding the postal service of the Colony for 1905 are given in the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters and post-cards.	465,298	25,528	28,797	145,723	141,840	807,186
Newspapers ...	214,978	43,398	4,931	132,849	25,298	421,454
Book packets, samples, and circulars.	40,579	14,787	1,545	35,658	6,530	99,099
Parcels	1,234	809	127	3,210	284	5,664
Telegrams ...	4,749	—	—	—	—	4,749
				Despatched		Received
	Including Registered ...			10,566		10,420

Money Orders were issued and paid as follows during 1905:—

—	Issued in Colony.	Paid in Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	3,173 16 6	516 15 2
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	8,343 14 2	1,119 18 7
Within the Colony	994 5 7	—
Total	12,511 16 3	1,636 13 9

An annual subsidy of 2,282*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* is paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails. An interinsular service is also subsidised to the extent of 3,500*l.*

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ is by cable. The total cost of construction was 3,400*l.*

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) *via* Nausori, Nadarivatu, and Ba.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Fiji Constabulary (which has been formed by the amalgamation of the Police Force and the Armed Native Constabulary) are armed, and are available for military service if required.

There are rifle clubs at Suva and Levuka and at the principal sugar centres. Rifles are issued to these clubs on a system of deferred payment, and ammunition is issued at less than cost price. A scheme is under consideration for combining the various rifle clubs in a general Rifle Association, modelled on the system adopted by the Australian Colonies.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic. There is a metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of 14 miles. Bridle tracks exist almost everywhere. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by means of steam launches between Suva and the sugar centres of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service to Lautoka *via* Levuka and Ba. Communication between the islands is maintained by two steamers and a fleet of 159 sailing vessels of which 101 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1905, 3,140 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta and Madras, and 341 returns were repatriated. The average cost of introduction for the past five years is £14 16*s.* Indian immigrants come to the Colony for a term of ten years, the first five of which is under indenture. At the end of ten years an immigrant is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of general revenue.

On 31st December, 1905 the estimated Indian population was 25,952, of whom 11,512 were under indenture. The estimated area of land under cultivation by free Indians is 11,304 acres.

During 1905, 116 (so-called) Polynesian immigrants were introduced, chiefly from the Solomon Islands, and 40 were returned to their homes. The Polynesian population on 31st December, 1905, numbered 2,022, of whom 528 were under indenture.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works during 1905 (exclusive of establishments) was £15,757 8*s.* 7*d.* In addition to this a sum of £8,469 19*s.* 1*d.* was expended in 1905 on an extension of the Suva water supply. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £15,000. The main items of expenditure were:—Maintenance and construction of public buildings, £5,589; new roads and upkeep of roads, £2,070; bridges, £892; lighthouse, Lautoka harbour, £1,388; water supplies to native villages, £916.

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. G. Moore, Commissioner of Lands and Works, retired on 28th February, 1905, and was succeeded by Mr. T. R. Ward.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

Sugar, copra, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) at present represent over 98 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. There is room for considerable extension in the cultivation of such minor products as cocoa, rubber, &c.

The area of native-owned land in the Colony, after allowing for waste land unfit for cultivation, is far in excess of the present or future requirements of the native owners. The natives have in many instances signified their willingness to dispose of their surplus lands to the Government for lease or sale to settlers. The Legislative Council has voted a sum of £10,000 from surplus funds, of which £5,000 will be applied to the acquisition of suitable blocks of land, and £5,000 to the construction of such roads as may be necessary to render them available for settlement.

The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited to Europeans. Manual work is performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as overseers or skilled labourers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Artisans, carpenters, and boatbuilders 14*s*. per diem; overseers £2 to £5 per week.

The general condition of the Colony is satisfactory. For several years there has been an excess of revenue over expenditure, and on 31st December, 1905, the surplus funds of the Colony (including the balance of the Indian Return Passages Fund recently transferred to general revenue) amounted to £108,995 13*s*. 3*d*.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR MAHAFFY,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
482	St. Lucia	1904
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena	"
487	Weihaiwei	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	"
502	Straits Settlements	1905
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland Protectorate	1905–1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 548.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 509.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
November, 1907.

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No. 548.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 509.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
16th September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the usual number of copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1906 are being transmitted to you by this mail under separate cover, and to enclose a report thereon by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD IM THURN.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

FIJI BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1906.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The amount of revenue received under the various heads for the years 1906 and 1905 is shewn in the following statement:—

Head of Revenue.	1906.			1905.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs ...	99,593	18	2	82,725	0	6
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	8,155	11	6	6,554	16	8
Native Taxes ...	16,309	10	0	15,477	8	7
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	11,854	8	2	12,692	5	11
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	11,591	5	7	11,285	19	9
Post Office ...	4,527	7	2	4,717	14	5
Rent of Government Property ...	867	10	6	560	9	3
Interest ...	3,863	19	11	1,444	15	3
Miscellaneous ...	1,595	6	9	1,142	5	8
Land Sales ...	28	0	0	20	0	0
"Indian Return Passage Fund" transferred.	—			56,353	19	2
"Polynesian Return Passage Fund" transferred.	27,037	2	0	—		
Total Revenue ... £	185,423	19	9	192,974	15	2

The following is a statement of the expenditure under the various heads for the years 1906 and 1905:—

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure, 1906.			Actual Expenditure, 1905.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	13,252	5	0	15,245	10	0
Pensions ...	3,361	7	4	2,789	16	8
The Governor and Legislature ...	3,737	15	1	3,785	6	2
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,313	1	0	2,231	13	4
Government Printing Office ...	2,574	14	9	2,255	1	0
Audit Department ...	826	10	8	752	12	8
Postal Department ...	8,344	7	2	7,379	1	9
Native Department ...	7,915	8	3	8,111	10	6
Treasury ...	2,145	16	10	3,499	0	10
Carried forward ...	44,471	6	1	46,049	12	11

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure, 1906.			Actual Expenditure, 1905.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Brought forward ...	44,471	6	1	46,049	12	11
Customs Department	4,510	8	2	4,120	5	4
Port and Marine Department ...	2,739	16	6	2,636	8	10
Immigration Department	4,895	2	7	2,145	16	9
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	11,087	12	6	10,668	12	10
Fiji Constabulary	9,152	13	1	6,351	9	8
Volunteer Corps	736	0	2	517	7	5
Prisons Department	4,418	15	3	4,106	17	0
Medical Department	12,143	3	5	11,235	1	4
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Asylum.	3,482	10	2	3,342	5	11
Education	1,457	2	9	1,749	10	2
Transport	4,920	19	9	4,340	17	4
Agricultural Department	3,259	1	1	1,212	2	5
Miscellaneous	2,802	12	8	2,223	18	9
Lands Department	4,458	4	11	2,547	17	1
Works Department	2,435	16	4			
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	7,474	7	5	5,492	7	7
	124,445	12	10	108,740	11	4
Public Works Extraordinary	24,928	2	0	10,265	1	0
Suva Water Supply Extension ...	—			13,037	10	2
Total	149,373	14	10	132,043	2	6

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shewn in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1902	132,512	14	4	104,975	6	3
1903	138,166	16	11	113,341	7	10
1904	139,404	16	0	158,166	16	11
1905	192,974	15	2	132,043	2	6
1906	185,423	19	9	149,373	14	10

The revenue for 1906 includes an extraordinary receipt of £27,037 2*s.* being the amount of Polynesian Return Passages Fund transferred to general revenue, while that for 1905 includes a similar receipt of £56,353 19*s.* 2*d.* being the amount of Indian Return Passages Fund. Excluding these two extraordinary items of receipt, the revenue for 1906 and 1905 amounted to £158,386 17*s.* 9*d.* and £136,620 16*s.*, respectively. The principal increase in 1906 as compared with 1905 was under the head of Customs, partly due to the extension of the sugar industry, but mainly owing to the increased purchasing power of the natives.

The expenditure for 1906 exceeded the estimate by £12,224 1*s*. 6*d*. Of this amount £2,900 represents the cost of acquiring 2,900 acres of land (Waidoi) now under lease. The over expenditure under the head of Public Works Extraordinary amounted to £7,118 2*s*. of which £4,918 6*s*. 4*d*. was expended on public buildings and £3,800 9*s*. 4*d*. on new roads.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

No changes in taxation have taken place during the year, but a readjustment of Customs dues is under consideration.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Bank Credit Balance	8.730	10	2			
Bills in transit and maturing	10,000	0	0			
Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Balance in hand on 30th September, 1906	1,055	17	5			
Emigration Agent, Madras: Balance in hand on 30th November, 1906	327	17	5			
Paid into Bank after the close of the year	10	1	0	20,124	6	0
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Fixed Deposit	230	16	0			
Bank Credit Balance	176	1	10			
Paid into Bank after close of year ...	8	19	3	415	17	1
Native Department Deposit Account—						
Fixed Deposits	6,158	13	11			
Invested in Colonial Stocks	4,263	8	11			
Bank Credit Balance	3,719	3	5	14,141	6	3
Polynesian Wages Account—						
Fixed Deposits	1,000	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	532	5	3	1,532	5	3
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Fixed Deposit	150	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	195	0	4			
Paid into Bank after close of year ...	3	14	0	348	14	4
Native Taxes Account—						
Bank Credit Balance				3,161	4	5
Carried forward				£39,723	13	4

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1906, amounted to £145,058 9*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £108,995 13*s*. 3*d*. on 31st December, 1905, and £48,118 15*s*. 7*d*. on 31st December, 1904. The large increase of assets is mainly due to the transfer to public funds of the accumulated balances of the funds created for the repatriation of Indian and Polynesian labourers, the colony having assumed the liability which these funds were created to meet. The following statement shews the assets and liabilities of the colony on 31st December, 1906 :—

on the 31*st December*, 1906.

Liabilities.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Indian Immigrants Introduction Fund—						
Overpaid by Crown Agents	5,682	12	11			
Cheques Unpaid	89	12	8			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	14,352	0	5	20,124	6	0
Intestate and Vacant Estates Account—						
Cheques unpaid	1	3	3			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	414	13	10	415	17	1
Native Department Deposit Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	1,069	6	4			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	13,071	19	11	14,141	6	3
Polynesian Wages Account—						
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	...		...	1,532	5	3
Deceased Immigrants' Suspense Account—						
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	...		...	348	14	4
Native Taxes Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	185	18	3			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	2,975	6	2	3,161	4	5
Carried forward...				£39,723	13	4

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward...				39,723	13	4
Indian Settlement Fund—						
Fixed Deposits	4,500	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	817	18	1			
				5,317	18	1
Money Order Account—						
Fixed Deposit	1,600	0	0			
Bank Credit Balance	1,036	10	2			
Cash in hand	32	8	0			
				2,668	18	2
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Bank Credit Balance				139	11	7
Estates Trust Account—						
Fixed Deposits	591	18	5			
Bank Credit Balance	147	18	0			
				739	16	5
				48,589	17	7
Public Account—						
Invested in Stocks				123,414	13	8
Credit Balance: Crown Agents				2,406	2	9
Bills maturing in London and in transit...				6,000	0	0
Amounts due to Immigration Department				22	18	6
Advances recoverable				592	0	0
Rotuma Advances recoverable				302	6	6
Deferred payment Advance Account				1,857	17	0
Bank Credit Balance				5,854	15	1
Paid into Bank after close of year				3,991	8	1
Indian Introduction Advance Account				7,160	12	1
Crown Agents' Advance Account				10,000	0	0
Total				210,192	11	3

the 31st December, 1906—*continued.*

Liabilities.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward				39,723	13	4
Indian Settlements Fund—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				5,317	18	1
Money Order Account—						
Cheque Unpaid	4	11	0			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	2,664	7	2			
				2,668	18	2
Supreme Court Suitors' Fund—						
Amount to Credit of the Account				139	11	7
Estates Trust Account—						
Cheques Unpaid	4	8	6			
Amount to Credit of the Account ...	735	7	11			
				739	16	5
				48,589	17	7
Public Account—						
Cheques Unpaid				16,199	4	0
Deposits Repayable				345	0	0
				65,134	1	7
Excess of Assets				145,058	9	8
Total				210,192	11	3

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1906, stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial loan (without interest) ...	60,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½°/ₒ)	82,600	0	0
	£143,415	1	3

The Imperial loan is now being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1906 the public debt was reduced by £9,400.

(E.) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales a branch at Suva. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation being estimated at £3,834.

(F.) MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town and School Boards :—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	2,041	2,005	940	1,108
1903 ...	2,051	2,009	919	1,296
1904 ...	2,247	2,808	1,451	2,042
1905 ...	2,968	3,069	1,452	1,065
1906 ...	2,727	3,031	1,263	1,374

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	856	785	682	651
1903 ...	1,034	1,094	711	603
1904 ...	1,099	1,309	605	694
1905 ...	1,106	1,065	665	651
1906 ...	1,007	842	628	646

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The debt of the Suva Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £2,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. The loan was raised to provide a portion of the cost of construction of a Town Hall (£1,200), and the renewal of two bridges (£800). On 31st December, 1906, the debt stood at £1,800. The debt of the Levuka Town Board amounts to £500, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £50 per annum.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1906 and 1905 :—

Nature of Import.	1905.	1906.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	2,031	2,154
Bags and sugar-mats	14,730	12,601
Beer	3,861	4,411
Books	2,030	1,424
Boots and shoes	5,070	5,214
Breadstuffs and biscuits	31,287	39,062
Bran and pollard	3,368	3,916
Butter and ghee	8,822	10,762
Cement	3,099	4,218
Coal	23,253	17,788
Cordage	2,902	3,117
Cutlery	2,315	2,828
Drapery	75,767	100,545
Drugs	4,973	4,870
Fish	5,936	6,148
Furniture	2,995	3,624
Galvanised iron and goods	9,349	13,831
Glassware and crockery	2,714	2,814
Hardware	28,164	45,184
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	6,183	17,813
Jewellery	2,482	3,093
Leatherware	4,480	5,467
Live-stock	17,076	40,580
Machinery	21,032	53,795
Machinery—agricultural	6,727	10,505
Manure	4,235	12,993
Meats	9,589	14,686
Oils	13,011	14,078
Paints	3,103	2,812
Rice	7,549	14,754
Ship chandlery	2,300	2,314
Soap	1,695	1,780
Spirits	7,209	7,582
Stationery	4,580	5,262
Sugar	5,280	4,797
Timber	17,885	26,556
Tobacco	5,313	5,564
Vegetables and green fruit	6,936	6,728
Wines	2,011	2,625

The items showing increases of note are breadstuffs and biscuits, drapery, galvanised iron and goods, hardware, iron, live-stock, machinery, manure, meats, rice, and timber.

The increase in the importation of breadstuffs, drapery, and meats, is due mainly to the increased purchasing power of the natives, owing to the high price obtained for copra and the increased export of green fruit, chiefly bananas. There has also been an increase in the rents and proceeds of sales of native lands. The increase under the heads of galvanised iron, hardware, iron, timber, and machinery, is accounted for by the extension of the sugar industry.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, and green fruit. The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years are given in the following statement :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1902 ...	35,905	347,691	10,683	135,354	25,226
1903 ...	46,438	406,318	8,526	91,050	22,162
1904 ...	52,138	469,391	7,406	86,140	22,102
1905 ...	58,488	539,594	10,200	125,892	28,996
1906 ...	38,523	347,198	9,772	143,683	97,678

The export of sugar for 1906 shows a decrease of 19,965 tons. This large decrease was occasioned by the drought in 1905 ; the Vancouver-Fiji Sugar Company's mill was also closed during a considerable portion of the year owing to the erection of a new mill.

The value of green fruit shows an increase of £68,681, as compared with the figures for 1905, due to increased exportation to Australia owing to the destruction of the banana crop in Queensland by a hurricane.

The principal minor exports are turtle-shell (£2,135), bêche-de-mer (£1,563), coconuts (£1,534), bark (£1,102), and hides and pelts (£1,099).

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1902	526,846	535,170
1903	489,095	554,707
1904	439,995	589,990
1905	442,852	706,403
1906	609,496	603,410

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows :—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1902	81,988
1903	84,136
1904	81.967
1905	82,725
1906	99,594

The bulk of the import trade is done with Sydney, and it is therefore not possible to obtain accurate information as to the importation of British and foreign goods. As far as can be ascertained, the importation of the following classes of goods is increasing steadily and is replacing goods of British manufacture, —from Germany—glass and crockery, hardware, drapery (cotton and woollen), furniture,—from Belgium—hardware and nails,—from Japan and the East—drapery, wickerware, matting, silk.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

No systematic attempt has as yet been made to prospect for minerals in this Colony though traces of gold have been found on the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, and it is believed that copper exists on the former island.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the various mills, factories, &c., established in the Colony and the nominal daily output :—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lb. dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	15	
Soapworks	1	9 cwt. soap.
Saw-mills	4	
Rice mills	1	

Twenty-four tons of bêche-de-mer, 10 tons of pearl-shell, and 1 ton of turtle-shell were exported during 1906.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The cultivation of sugar coconuts, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) forms the staple agricultural industries of the Colony. There are at present six sugar mills in the Colony, of which four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., of Sydney. The mill in the Navua district, recently acquired by the Vancouver-Fiji Sugar Company, has been replaced by a new and larger mill better fitted for the growing requirements of the district. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 40,519 acres, from which were produced in 1906, 403,182 tons of sugar cane. The area under coconuts is estimated at 27,477 acres, but this represents European cultivation only, no returns of the area cultivated by natives being furnished. The total quantity of copra (the dried kernel of the coconut) exported during 1906 was 9,771 tons valued at £143,683.

The area under bananas and pineapples was 3,973 acres, but this does not include native cultivation. Considerable areas of bananas are cultivated by natives, who sell their produce to European agents for shipment. The total area of cultivated land in the Colony (exclusive of native cultivation) is estimated at 78,875 acres. The total estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,953,920 acres.

A Department of Agriculture was established in 1905 under the charge of a Superintendent, Mr. C. H. Knowles, B.Sc. There are two experimental stations in connection with the Department, one at Nasinu about nine miles from Suva (area 112 acres), and one at Lautoka (area 110 acres), the former being situated in a wet, and the latter in a dry, district. There is a small factory in Suva under the Department, equipped with a Macarthy cotton gin (40 inch), a Death and Ellwood fibre machine, and a brushing machine turned by a 5 h.p. oil engine, and a press. This factory gins cotton and prepares sisal hemp, Mauritius hemp, ginger fibre, &c.

There is undoubtedly a good opening for the cultivation in this Colony of such minor products as sisal hemp, ginger, limes, spices, tobacco, &c. The cultivation of rubber has hitherto hardly been attempted ; successful efforts are, however, being made on at least two plantations to introduce this product. The growth of the existing trees shows that conditions are favourable to both the Para and Ceara species. Large areas of land suitable for rubber cultivation can be obtained at reasonable rates.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony is estimated at 27,700 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under grant is 450,427 acres, the area of native-owned land being some 4½ million acres. In addition to the Crown land mentioned above, the Government has secured on a 99 years' lease some 57,000 acres of land in the province of Bua suitable for grazing and, in parts, for coconut and rubber cultivation. The terms on which this land will be sublet for grazing are, 3*d.* per acre per annum for the first five years, 6*d.* per acre per annum for the second five years, 9*d.* per acre per annum for the third five years, and thereafter 1*s.* per acre per annum Some 30,000 acres have already been leased on these terms. Negotiations are now being carried on and will shortly be completed for the acquisition on long lease of similar large areas in other parts of the Colony.

The following statement shews the total area of native land leased or purchased during 1906 as compared with 1905 :—

—	1905.		1906.	
	Area.	Rent or Price.	Area.	Rent or Price.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Total defined land leased.	10,546 1 4	2,058 11 3	19,417 2 1·6	2,670 0 6
Total land leased not surveyed.	4,838 0 0	847 12 0	60,075 0 0	1,564 0 0
Do. do.	18,200 0 0	60 0 0		
Totals	33,584 1 4	2,966 3 3	79,492 2 1·6	4,234 0 6
Purchases	2,194 0 0	2,015 0 0	11,289 2 37·7	10,955 17 0
	35,778 1 4	4,981 3 3	90,782 0 39·3	15,189 17 6

(E.) SHIPPING.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1905 and 1906 are given in the following table :—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1906.		1905.		1906.		1905.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	133	207,149	120	186,222	128	202,727	119	184,434
" ...	Sailing	11	2,988	10	2,608	9	1,136	9	1,910
American	"	1	642	2	1,097	2	1,162	2	1,097
Norwegian	"	3	2,286	3	2,551	—	—	6	4,368

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years :—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1902	174,133	175,522	349,655
1903	168,139	168,069	336,208
1904	183,761	175,000	358,761
1905	194,299	193,102	387,401
1906	213,065	205,025	418,090

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1906:

No. II. "The Dogs Ordinance, 1906"; repeals previous legislation and makes provision for dealing with injuries by dogs to persons or property throughout the Colony. Provisions as to registration of dogs are applicable in proclaimed districts only.

No III. "The Fiji Rifle Association Ordinance, 1906"; provides for the affiliation of the various rifle clubs in the Colony, and for their equipment and training. Certain concessions are granted in return for which the members undergo training and are liable for service if called out.

No. IV. "The Polynesian Immigration Amendment Ordinance, 1906." The accumulated balances of the "Public Trust Account" (consisting of moneys paid for wages and return passages of Polynesian Immigrants) and the "Polynesian Immigration Fund" (consisting of unclaimed wages and passage money transferred from the Public Trust Account) are transferred to general revenue, which will in future bear all charges heretofore borne by the account and fund respectively. Immigrants are allowed to receive a portion of their wages, not exceeding one fourth, at the expiration of each six months of their contract, the balance being paid when the contract expires. The right of an immigrant to a free return passage is limited to a period of ten years after the date when the right first accrued. Provision is made for temporary employment on plantations other than that to which an immigrant is indentured.

No. V. "The Towns Amendment Ordinance, 1906"; provides for appeals against valuations made under the principal Ordinance.

No. VIII. "The Indian Immigration Amendment Ordinance, 1906"; limits the right of an Indian immigrant to a return passage to a period of two years after the date when the right first accrued.

No. X. "The Railway and Bridges Ordinance, 1906"; provides summary punishment for unlawful damage to railways and bridges.

No. XI. "The Early Closing Ordinance, 1906"; provides for the closing of shops (with certain exceptions) in the town of Suva at one o'clock on Saturday afternoons, and all day on public holidays. Shops in districts other than the town of Suva may be similarly closed by Order of the Governor in Council.

No. XIV. "The Sea-carriage of Goods Ordinance, 1906," is based on the Commonwealth Act, 1904, and states and imposes on shipping companies the conditions and duties incumbent on carriers under the Common Law.

No. XVI. "The Acquisition of Lands Ordinance, 1906"; enacts that the expression "public purposes" in "The Crown Acquisition of Lands Ordinance" and "The Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance, 1905," shall be deemed to include any undertaking, proposal, or policy which may appear to the Governor in Council desirable as directly benefiting the Colony.

No. XVII. "The Evidence Ordinance, 1906"; introduces into the Colony the principles contained in "The Evidence Act, 1898," of the Imperial Parliament.

No. XVIII. "The Interpretation Ordinance, 1906"; replaces the 1875 Ordinance by a fuller and more adequate enactment.

No. XXI. "The Fruit Export Ordinance, 1906"; provides for the regulation and control of the export of fruit from the Colony. Provision is made for the appointment of inspectors, and for the licensing of fruit exporters Power is given to the Governor in Council to make regulations relating to the conditions to be observed by licensed fruit exporters.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The subjects of an ordinary education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with five teachers and an attendance of 140·61, and one in Levuka with two teachers and 76·8 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony with an average attendance of 133.

The education of the natives throughout the Group is almost entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,141 schools with 2,162 teachers and 17,118 scholars, and the latter 159 with 210 teachers and 1,880 scholars.

With a view to assisting in the higher education of the natives a school for native youths has been established by the Government in the vicinity of Suva. Accommodation is at present provided for 36 boys, and this number of boys between the ages of six and fourteen has been selected from the different provinces thoughout the group. As English is to be the medium of instruction throughout the school it is given a most prominent position in the curriculum, and it is hoped that the majority of the boys will soon acquire a knowledge of the language which will enable them to study the various subjects of an English elementary school programme.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer assisted by a Matron, two staff nurses, and four pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1906 there were 1,287 patients admitted to hospital, of whom 120 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,173 8*s.* 1*d.* and the expenditure to £3,035 18*s*, 5*d.* There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. They are under the charge of Government Medical Officers and are maintained by Government from public funds assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefited. The number of patients admitted to these hospitals during 1906 was 2,499. There is also a provincial hospital at Rotuma under the charge of a Medical Officer who is also Resident Commissioner.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Senior Medical Officer is superintendent. During 1906 there were 15 admissions, 6 discharges, and 2 deaths, leaving 29 inmates on 31st December, 1906.

There is a leper asylum on the Island of Beqa, on which the expenditure during 1906 amounted to £300 11*s.* 5*d.* The number of inmates on 31st December was 24.

There is a home for the aged and infirm at Suva under the management of the "Suva Relief Fund." The fund receives an annual grant of £100 from public funds.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

In 1906 the Police Force and the Armed Native Constabulary were amalgamated in one body called the Fiji Constabulary. Under this new scheme the Constabulary are under the charge of an Inspector-General and consist of 1 chief inspector, 8 European sub-inspectors, 1 pay-and-quartermaster, 4 native sub-inspectors, 15 native sergeants, 9 native corporals, 20 first-class native constables, 38 second-class native constables, 93 third-class native constables, 1 Indian sergeant, 4 first-class Indian constables, 5 second-class Indian constables, 6 third-class Indian constables, and 3 buglers. The cost of the force in 1906 was £9,152 13*s.* 1*d.* The force is primarily a police force, but in addition to their police duties the men are drilled and instructed in the use of arms.

(B.) PRISONS.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each magistrate's station. Prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months, and in the case of certain adjacent districts one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners admitted to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1906 was 839. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Police during 1906 was 7,804. Of these, 1,046 were offences against the person, 610 larceny, 351 offences against property, and 5,797 other offences—chiefly breaches of the Labour Ordinances by indentured labourers.

Of the 7,804 cases reported, 1,353 were dismissed, 6,451 persons were dealt with by summary conviction, and 94 were committed to the Supreme Court. One person was executed for murder during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1906, as compared with the Census returns of 31st March, 1901:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1906.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	2,023	1,239	3,262
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	863	825	1,688
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	18,800	9,740	28,540
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	1,812	348	2,160
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,125	1,186	2,311
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,560	41,565	87,125
Others	254	213	467	247	207	454

The estimated native population on 31st December, 1905, was 86,093. During 1906 there were 3,291 births, and 3,259 deaths registered, showing for the second year in succession a net increase of population of 32. The birth-rate per mille was 37·77 and the death-rate 37·40. The birth-rate per mille amongst Europeans was 24·8 and the death-rate 12·2.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, there having been no serious epidemic. 149 cases of dysentery (of which 19 were Europeans) were treated in the Colonial Hospital during this year. Ten cases of typhoid fever occurred in the Labasa district, only one of which terminated fatally.

(C.) Sanitation.

Neither of the two European towns in the Colony has any system of sanitary drainage, the dry-earth system being used. The Town Boards of Suva and Levuka are paid sanitary grants of £200 and £100 respectively.

(D.) Climate.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1906 was 169·619 inches. The greatest daily rainfall was 26·50 inches on 8th August.

The highest temperature in the shade was 97·2° on 8th February, and the lowest 60° on 28th July.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters and post-cards.	640,885	31,548	30,525	197,478	165,937	1,066,373
Newspapers ...	290,529	39,109	5,135	141,402	2,211	478,386
Book packets, &c...	50,796	9,726	2,084	26,239	6,486	95,331
Parcels	2,473	832	122	4,129	263	7,819
Telegrams ...	5,717	—	—	—	—	5,717
	Including registered ...			Despatched. 12,873		Received. 9,871

Money Orders were issued and paid as follows during 1906:—

—	Issued in Colony.			Paid in Colony.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	2,837	12	5	368	11	1
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	9,930	5	6	1,142	6	8
Within the Colony	2,887	3	4	—		
Total	15,655	1	3	1,510	17	9

An annual subsidy of £2,282 4s. 11*d.* is paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails. An interinsular service is also subsidised to the extent of £3,500.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ is by cable. The total cost of construction was £3,370.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) *via* Nausori, Nadarivatu, and Ba.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Fiji Constabulary (formed by the amalgamation of the Police Force and the Armed Native Constabulary) are drilled and armed, and are available for military service if required.

The various rifle clubs in the Colony have been combined in a general Rifle Association, modelled on the system adopted in the Australian Colonies. The Association is under the charge of a supervising officer.

The expenditure for 1906 was £736 0*s.* 2*d.*, the number of members being 188.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The possibilities for the investment of capital and the openings for settlement which this Colony offers are, it is feared, but imperfectly understood even in the neighbouring Dominions of New Zealand and Australia. With a view to making the Colony more widely known it was decided that a suitable exhibit should be sent to the New Zealand International Exhibition at Christchurch. The exhibit included curiosities and other articles of native manufacture, and samples of such products as sugar, copra, tea, coffee, cocoa, rubber, cassava, peanuts, cotton, fibres, ginger, turmeric, vanilla, pimento, &c. The exhibit was under the charge of a Commissioner, and a party of Fijian natives under the charge of an officer of the Native Department also attended the Exhibition.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Beyond the immediate vicinity of the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic. There is a metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of 14 miles, and this road is continued, though only partly metalled, for some ten miles up the other side of the Rewa River. A road is in course of construction from Suva round the harbour to the sugar centre at Navua, a distance of some 32 miles. Bridle tracks exist almost everywhere. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by means of steam launches between Suva and the sugar centres of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service to Lautoka *via* Levuka and Ba. Communication between the islands is maintained by three steamers and a fleet of 162 sailing vessels, of which 91 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

In consequence of the uncertainty attending the system of calling for tenders for transport annually, and with the view of obtaining conveyance by steamer of immigrants from India at a reasonable rate of passage-money, a contract was entered into by the Government with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for a term of years, the contractors undertaking to provide steamers for transport of immigrants from India and of immigrants repatriated from this Colony to India, at a uniform rate of passage-money.

During 1906, 2,520 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta and Madras, and 321 returns were repatriated. The average cost of introduction for the past five years is £15 10*s.* 6*d.* Indian immigrants come to the Colony for a term of ten years, the first five of which is under indenture. At the end of ten years an immigrant is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of general revenue.

On 31st December, 1906, the estimated Indian population was 28,540, of whom 11,894 were under indenture. The estimated area of land under cultivation by free Indians was 10,167 acres.

During 1906, 246 (so-called) Polynesian immigrants were introduced from the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides, and 91 immigrants were returned to their homes. The Polynesian population on 31st December, 1906, was estimated at 2,162, of whom 437 were under indenture.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works during 1906 (exclusive of establishments) was £32,402 9*s.* 5*d.* The main items of expenditure were :—Maintenance and construction of public buildings, £11,930; new roads and upkeep of roads, £8,366; bridges, £3,251; water supplies to native villages, £1,302; reclamation, Suva, £1,467; Suva water supply extension, £1,063.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

At present the three staple exports, sugar, copra, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) represent 98 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. Such minor products as cocoa, rubber, fibres, &c., can be successfully grown, and there is room for considerable increase in their cultivation.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy and not unsuited to Europeans. Endemic malarial fever is unknown. Manual work is performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as overseers or skilled labourers.

The following are the average rates of wages :—Artisans, carpenters, and boatbuilders 14*s.* per diem; blacksmiths, £4 per week; overseers £2 to £5 per week.

The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as highly satisfactory. From the appended statement it will be seen that during the decennial period 1896–1906 there has been a very large and steady increase of general prosperity in almost every direction.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR MAHAFFY,
Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICAL COMPARISONS for the years ending 31st December, 1896 and 1906.

—	1896.	1906.	Increase or Decrease.*	
			Numerical.	Centesimal.
Population :—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Europeans	3,292†	3,262	—30	—0·9
Indians	10,433	28,542	18,109	173·6
Fijians	100,321	87,125	—13,196	—13·1
Others	6,454	6,613	159	2·4
Total...	120,500	125,085	4,585	3·8
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Land under cultivation‡	39,402	78,740	39,338	99·8
Live Stock :—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Horses and Mules	1,631	5,031	3,400	208·4
Cattle	12,558	34,793	22,235	177·0
	£	£	£	£
Postal Money Orders issued...	—	15,655	15,655	—
Shipping :—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Vessels Inward	115,470	213,065	97,595	84·5
Vessels Outward	115,586	205,025	89,439	77·3
Export of Fijian Produce :—				
Sugar—				
Quantity	27,334	38.522	11,188	40·9
	£	£	£	£
Value	336,929	347,198	10,269	3·0
Copra—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Quantity	5,487	9,772	4,285	78·0
	£	£	£	£
Value	48,950	143,683	94,733	193·5
Green Fruit—	Bunches.	Bunches.	Bunches.	Bunches.
	207,352	604,617	397,265	191·5
Quantity	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
	34,934	191,640	156,706	448·6
	£	£	£	£
Value	18,488	97,678	79,190	428·3
Colonial Distilled Spirits—	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
Quantity	78,890	—	—78,890	—100
	£	£	£	£
Value	10,163	—	10,163	—100
Total Export of Fijian Produce	430,130	598,357	168,227	39·1
Imports...	237,280	609,496	372,216	156·8
Revenue	73,869	158,387§	84,518	114·4
Expenditure	73,099	149,373	77,274	104·3
Public Debt	217,897	143,415	—74,482	—34·1

---

* Minus sign signifies decrease.

† The figures for 1896 are believed to be inaccurate. The Census returns for 1901 give the European population as 2,447.

‡ Excluding native food plantations.

§ Excluding an abnormal receipt of £27,037.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
518	Leeward Islands	1905–1906
519	East Africa Protectorate	,,
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	,,
522	Falkland Islands...	,,
523	Ashanti	,,
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	,,
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	,,
528	Bermuda	,,
529	Gibraltar	,,
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
531	Sierra Leone	,,
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	,,
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
539	Leeward Islands...	,,
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	,,
544	Barbados...	,,
545	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
546	Grenada	,,
547	Mauritius	1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 580.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 548.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.

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No. 580.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 548.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,

24th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of the Blue Book for 1907 together with a report thereon signed by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The report, I think, well illustrates the satisfactorily progressive state of the Colony.

3. In the year under report the Customs Tariff was, as you are aware, amended, and it was anticipated that this would result in a slight loss of revenue. The anticipation has, however, not been realised, the reductions having been more than compensated by the increase in trade consequent on the rapid development of the Colony.

4. I may here allow myself to state that a further amendment of the Customs Tariff which has been made in the present year, from which it was again anticipated that some loss of revenue would result, has—as is already evident— not brought about that result. It may, I think, be assumed that the revenue of the Colony is not likely to decrease, unless as the result of catastrophies now unforeseen. It is also, in my opinion, satisfactory that the various funds pertaining to this Government have now been consolidated, and that the financial position of the Colony may now be ascertained at a glance.

5. Now that the financial resources of Fiji are fairly definitely ascertained, the most important administrative task is to consider and decide how far, and in what way, these resources may best be used for extraordinary public works tending to the remunerative development of the Colony.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD IM THURN.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1907.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1907:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The amount of revenue received under the various heads for the years 1907 and 1906 is shown in the following statement:—

Head of Revenue.	1907. £	s.	d.	1906. £	s.	d.
Customs	107,135	0	1	99,593	18	2
Port, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues	9,100	19	0	8,155	11	6
Native Taxes	16,397	2	9	16,309	10	0
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified ...	15,911	1	7	11,854	8	2
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid	12,223	5	4	11,591	5	7
Post Office	4,958	6	4	4,527	7	2
Rent of Government Property	1,757	11	7	867	10	6
Interest	4,587	10	7	3,863	19	11
Miscellaneous	2,023	17	1	1,595	6	9
Land Sales	10	0	0	28	0	0
"Polynesian Return Passage Fund" transferred...	—			27,037	2	0
"Indian Settlements Fund" transferred	5,697	4	2	—		

The following is a statement of the expenditure under the various heads for the years 1907 and 1906:—

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure, 1907. £	s.	d.	Actual Expenditure, 1906. £	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt	13,241	0	0	13,252	5	0
Pensions	4,066	6	5	3,361	7	4
The Governor and Legislature	3,933	11	3	3,737	15	1
Colonial Secretary's Department	2,320	1	2	2,313	1	0
Carried forward ...	23,560	18	10	22,664	8	5

Expenditure for the Years 1907 *and* 1906—cont.

Head of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure, 1907.			Actual Expenditure, 1906.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Brought forward ...	23,560	18	10	22,664	8	5
Government Printing Office	2,574	18	9	2,574	14	9
Audit Department ...	783	5	0	826	10	8
Postal Department ...	8,945	18	11	8,344	7	2
Native Department ...	8,320	1	9	7,915	8	3
Treasury	2,801	15	1	2,145	16	10
Customs Department ...	4,973	5	1	4,510	8	2
Port and Marine Department	2,944	2	5	2,739	16	6
Immigration Department...	7,045	16	7	4,895	2	7
Judicial and Legal Departments	11,251	15	4	11,087	12	6
Fiji Constabulary ...	9,870	15	0	9,152	13	1
Volunteer Corps	2,100	10	3	736	0	2
Prisons Department ...	4,380	8	1	4,418	15	3
Medical Department ...	12,737	2	10	12,143	3	5
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Asylum ...	3,443	8	1	3,482	10	2
Education	1,954	4	2	1,457	2	9
Transport	5,219	13	9	4,920	19	9
Agricultural Department...	3,687	19	2	3,259	1	1
Miscellaneous	2,709	5	2	2,802	12	8
Lands Department ...	4,970	10	10	4,458	4	11
Works Department ...	2,279	9	3	2,435	16	4
Public Works, Annually Recurrent	10,817	17	4	7,474	7	5
	137,373	1	8	124,445	12	10
Public Works, Extraordinary	19,438	6	4	24,928	2	0
Total	156,811	8	0	149,373	14	10

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1903	138,166	16	11	113,341	7	10
1904	139,404	16	0	158,166	16	11
1905	192,974	15	2	132,043	2	6
1906	185,423	19	9	149,373	14	10
1907	179,801	18	6	156,811	8	0

In the years 1905, 1906, and 1907 extraordinary receipts are included, representing the amounts of the Indian Return

Passages Fund, the Polynesian Return Passages Fund, and the Indian Settlements Fund transferred to general revenue. Excluding these extraordinary amounts thus brought to credit the normal revenues for the three years in question amount to £136,620, £158,386, and £174,104 respectively. The principal increase in revenue for 1907, as compared with 1906, was under the head of Customs (£7,541 1*s*. 11*d*.) and is due to improvement in trade and the increased prosperity of the Colony.

The Customs Tariff passed in 1898 was repealed by Ordinance No. VIII. of 1907. The new tariff provides for a redistribution of customs dues, the net loss of revenue being estimated at £628. The specific duty on boots and shoes, boxes and trunks, drapery (cotton in the piece), and hats and caps has been altered to an *ad valorem* duty, the loss to revenue being estimated at £6,083. The duty on kerosene oil was reduced from 9*d*. to 6*d*. per gallon and fencing wire placed on the free list. The duty on drapery was increased from 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent. These reductions were met by an increase of duty on rice, butter and ghee, galvanised iron, matches, bags and sacks, and other minor items.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £168,026. Of this sum £123,415 is invested in stocks, and £35,000 placed at interest by the Crown Agents. The excess of assets has been largely increased during the past three years by the transfer to public funds of the accumulated balances of the funds created for the repatriation of Indian and Polynesian labourers, the Colony having assumed the liability which these funds were created to meet.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1907, stood as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Imperial loan (without interest) ...	55,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½ per cent.)	78,100	0	0
	£133,915	1	3

The Imperial loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1907 the public debt was reduced by £9,500.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. The Bank of New Zealand has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the Bank of New South Wales a branch at Suva. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation being estimated at £4,802.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka Town and School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1903	2,051	2,009	919	1,296
1904	2,247	2,898	1,451	2,042
1905	2,968	3,069	1,452	1,065
1906	2,727	3,031	1,263	1,374
1907	2,812	2,857	1,135	1,129

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1903	1,034	1,094	711	603
1904	1,099	1,309	605	694
1905	1,106	1,065	665	651
1906	1,007	842	628	646
1907	1,017	964	730	660

The debt of the Suva Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £2,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. The loan was raised to provide a portion of the cost of construction of a Town Hall (£1,200), and the renewal of two bridges (£800). On 31st December, 1907, the debt stood at £1,700. The debt of the Levuka Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £500, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £50 per annum. The debt stood at £350 on 31st December, 1907.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1906 and 1907:—

Nature of Import.	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Bacon and Hams	2,154	2,661
Bags and Sugar-mats ...	12,601	19,950

Nature of Import.	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Beer	4,411	5,115
Books	1,424	1,884
Boots and Shoes	5,214	7,396
Breadstuffs and Biscuits ...	39,062	40,873
Bran and Pollard	3,916	4,966
Butter and Ghee	10,762	12,318
Cement	4,218	3,573
Coal	17,788	25,557
Cordage	3,117	4,403
Cutlery	2,828	4,904
Drapery	100,545	118,214
Drugs	4,870	6,086
Fish	6,145	9,085
Furniture	3,624	3,796
Galvanised Iron and Goods ...	13,831	11,546
Glassware and Crockery ...	2,814	3,289
Hardware	45,184	44,738
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	17,813	29,555
Jewellery	3,093	3,742
Leatherware	5,467	5,204
Live Stock	40,580	7,210
Machinery	53,795	39,451
Machinery—Agricultural ...	10,505	5,893
Manure	12,993	7,020
Meats	14,686	14,672
Oils	14,959	21,942
Paints	2,812	4,488
Rice	14,754	11,452
Ship Chandlery	2,314	2,893
Soap	1,780	1,133
Spirits	7,582	8,768
Stationery	5,262	5,661
Sugar	4,797	3,865
Timber	26,556	28,008
Tobacco	5,564	6,923
Vegetables and Green Fruit	6,728	4,992
Wines	2,625	3 014

The items showing increases of note are bags and sugar-mats, coal, drapery, fish, iron, and oils.

The increase in the importation of drapery is due mainly to the increased purchasing power of the native owing to the high price obtained for coprah, and to an increase in the rents and proceeds of sale of native lands. The increases under the heads of bags and sugar-mats, coal, and iron, are accounted for by the continued extension of the sugar industry.

The staple products of the Colony and the principal items of export are sugar, coprah, and green fruit (chiefly bananas).

The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years are given in the following statement:—

Year.	Sugar.		Coprah.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1903	46,438	406,318	8,526	91,050	32,162
1904	52,138	469,391	7,406	86,140	22,102
1905	58,488	539,594	10,200	125,892	28,996
1906	38,523	347,198	9,772	143,683	97,678
1907	66,597	602,820	11,290	182,788	79,871

The export of sugar for 1907 shows an increase of 28,074 tons, as compared with 1906, but only exceeds the export for 1905 by 8,109 tons. The decrease in 1906 was occasioned by a drought in 1905.

The value of green fruit exported shows a decrease of £17,806, as compared with the figures for 1906, the increased exportation in that year being mainly due to the destruction of the banana crop in Queensland by a hurricane.

The principal minor exports are turtle-shell (£1,609), hides and pelts (£1,285), bark (£1,246), cocoanuts (£1,136), molasses (£2,507), and tea (£1,370).

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1903	489,095	554,707
1904	439,995	589,990
1905	442,852	706,403
1906	609,496	603,410
1907	643,007	881,364

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1903	84,136
1904	81,967
1905	82,725
1906	99,594
1907	107,078

The bulk of the import trade is done with Sydney, and it is therefore not possible to obtain accurate information as to the importation of British and foreign goods. As far as can be ascertained the importation of the following classes of goods is increasing steadily and is replacing goods of British manufacture:—from Germany—grass and crockery, hardware, drapery (cotton and woollen), and furniture; from Belgium—hardware and nails; from Japan and the East—drapery, wickerware, matting, and silk.

No systematic attempt has as yet been made to prospect for minerals in this Colony, though traces of gold have been found on the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, and it is believed that copper exists on both these islands.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the various mills, &c., established in the Colony and the nominal daily output:—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lb. dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	14	
Soapworks	1	9 cwt. soap.
Sawmills	4	

The cultivation of sugar, coprah, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) at present form the staple agricultural industries of the Colony. There are six sugar mills in operation in the Colony, of which four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, of Sydney. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 39,464 acres, from which were produced in 1907, 584,686 tons of sugar cane. The area under cocoanuts is estimated at 28,634 acres, but this represents European cultivation only, no returns of the area cultivated by natives being furnished. The total quantity of coprah (the dried kernel of the cocoanut) exported during 1907 was 11,290 tons, valued at £182,788.

The area under bananas and pineapples was 3,477 acres, but this does not include native cultivation. Considerable areas of bananas are cultivated by natives, who sell their produce to European agents for shipment. An Inspector of fruit was appointed in January, 1907, whose duty it is, under the Fruit Export Ordinance, to supervise the export fruit trade. A considerable improvement in the quality of fruit exported has resulted from this appointment.

A Department of Agriculture was established in 1905 under the charge of a Superintendent, Mr. C. H. Knowles, B.Sc. There are two experimental stations connected with the department, one at Nasinu, about nine miles from Suva (area 112 acres), and the other at Lautoka (area 110 acres), the former being situated in a wet, and the latter in a dry, district. At Nasinu experiments are being made in the cultivation of rubber, cocoa, coffee, cloves, pepper, cinnamon, nutmegs, fibres, bananas, &c. Half a mile of Caillet portable tram-line was obtained for this station and is found to be easily laid and worked by unskilled labour. At the Lautoka station the chief crop was Sea Island cotton. The lint obtained was shipped to the British Cotton Growing Association, and the broker's report is as follows:—

"Clean, very bright, staple long, rather wanting in fineness, fairly strong, valued 16*d*."

Maize, rice, peanuts, sisal hemp, &c., are also being experimented with. There is a small factory in Suva under the department, equipped with a Macarthy cotton gin, a Death and Ellwood fibre machine, and a brushing machine

There is a good opening in this Colony for the cultivation of such minor products as hemp, ginger, limes, spices, tobacco, &c. The cultivation of rubber has hitherto hardly been attempted, but the results obtained at the experimental stations, and on at least two plantations, indicate that this valuable product can be successfully cultivated. The growth of the existing trees shows that conditions are favourable to both the Para and Ceara species, though the trees of the latter variety are more liable to damage from high winds. Large areas of land suitable for rubber cultivation can be obtained at reasonable rates.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony is estimated at 32,600 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under grant is 459,780 acres. In addition to the Crown land mentioned above, the Government has secured on a 99 years' lease some 52,000 acres of land in the province of Bua suitable for grazing and, in parts, for cocoanut and rubber cultivation. Some 50,000 acres in Macuata Province and 100,000 acres in the province of Nadroga and Colo West have also been acquired.

The following statement shows the total area of native land leased or purchased during 1907:—

—	Area.	Rent or Price.
	Acres.	£
Total defined land leased	9,247	1,696
Total land leased not yet surveyed ...	25,958	891
Purchases	19,201	22,243
Grants	4,359	—
Total	58,765	24,830

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1906 and 1907 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1907.		1906.		1907.		1906.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	133	207,149	143	227,235	128	202,727	135	224,075
„ ...	Sailing	11	2,988	8	886	9	1,136	9	2,257
American ...	„	1	642	—	—	2	1,162	—	—
Norwegian	„	3	2,286	—	—	—	—	1	176

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1903	169,139	168,069	336,208
1904	183,761	175,000	358,761
1905	194,299	193,102	387,401
1906	213,065	205,025	418,090
1907	228,121	227,108	455,229

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1907:—

No. IV. The Government Savings Bank Ordinance. Provides for the establishment of a Government Savings Bank. Interest at 2½ per cent. is allowed. The total amount a depositor is allowed to have standing in his name is £200.

No. IV. The Indian Immigration Amendment Ordinance. Provision is made for punishing by fine or imprisonment, or both, employers and other persons having control of indentured immigrants for assaults on such immigrants. The penalty for desertion is increased from a fine not exceeding £2 or two months imprisonment to one not exceeding £5 or three months' imprisonment. After three convictions for desertion the penalty is increased to peremptory imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

No. X. The Contagious Diseases (Animal) Ordinance provides for the appointment of inspectors of stock. The Governor in Council is empowered to make regulations for dealing with diseases in stock.

No. XII. The Roads Ordinance. Makes provision for the construction, upkeep, and maintenance of roads throughout the Colony.

No. XIII. The Pensions Ordinance. Repeals previously existing pension regulations and brings the conditions relating to pensions into line with those prevailing in other Colonies.

No. XIV. The Lepers Amendment Ordinance; provides compulsory powers for the segregation and detention of lepers.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The subjects of an ordinary education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with five teachers, and an attendance of 120·47, and one in Levuka with two teachers and 66·3 scholars. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria.

A grant of £1,500 has been made from general revenue to provide for the establishment of a boarding-house in connection with the Levuka school.

There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans in the Colony with an average attendance of 174.

The education of the natives throughout the group is almost entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,102 schools with 2,168 teachers and 17,039 scholars, and the latter 159 with 218 teachers and 1,695 scholars.

With a view to assisting in the higher education of the natives a school for native youths has been established by the Government in the vicinity of Suva. Accommodation is at present provided for 35 boys, and this number of boys between the ages of six and fourteen has been selected from the different provinces throughout the group. As English is to be the medium of instruction throughout the school it is given a most prominent position in the curriculum, and it is hoped that the majority of the boys will soon acquire a knowledge of the language which will enable them to study the various subjects of an English elementary school programme.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by a matron, two staff nurses, and four pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1907 there were 1,676 patients admitted to hospital, of whom 132 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £1,845, and the expenditure to £2,838. There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. They are under the charge of Government Medical Officers, and are maintained by Government from public funds assisted by small grants from the funds of the provinces benefited. The number of patients admitted to these hospitals during 1907 was 3,159. There is also a provincial hospital at Rotuma under the charge of a Medical Officer who is also Resident Commissioner.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder. The Senior Medical Officer is superintendent. During 1907 there were 17 admissions, 12 discharges, and 10 deaths, leaving 24 inmates on 31st December, 1907.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Beqa, on which the expenditure during 1907 amounted to £306. The number of inmates on 31st December was 39.

There is a home for the aged and infirm at Suva under the management of the "Suva Relief Fund." The fund receives an annual grant of £100 from public funds.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The Fiji constabulary is under the charge of an Inspector-General, and consists of 4 European inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 1 pay-and-quartermaster, 4 native sub-inspectors, 15 native sergeants, 9 native corporals, 20 first-class native constables, 38 second-class native constables, 93 third-class native constables, 1 Indian sergeant, 4 first-class Indian constables, 5 second-class Indian constables, 9 third-class Indian constables, and 3 buglers. The cost of the force in 1907 was £9,870 15*s*. The force is primarily a police force, but in addition to their police duties the men are drilled and instructed in the use of arms.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is also a gaol at each magistrate's station. Prisoners serving sentence exceeding three months, and in the case of certain adjacent districts one month, are sent to Suva gaol. The total number of prisoners admitted to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1907 was 902. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews.

The total of offences reported to the police during 1907 was 7,312. Of these, 997 were offences against the person, 524 larceny, 282 offences against property, and 5,509 other offences —chiefly breaches of the Labour Ordinances by indentured labourers.

Of the 7,312 cases reported, 2,074 were dismissed, 5,238 persons were dealt with by summary conviction, and 79 were committed to the Supreme Court. Three persons were executed for murder during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1907, as compared with the census returns of 31st March, 1901:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1906.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,531	928	2,459	2,044	1,275	3,319
Half-castes ...	759	757	1,516	881	834	1,715
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	20,326	10,594	30,920
Polynesians ...	1,584	366	1,950	2,268	353	2,621
Rotumans ...	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,154	1,166	2,320
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,544	41,485	87,029
Others	254	213	467	275	205	480

The estimated native population on 31st December, 1906, was 87,125. During 1907 there were 3,310 births and 3,407 deaths registered, showing a net decrease of population of 97. The statistics for the two previous years showed increases of 32 and 133. The birth-rate per mille was 38·03, and the death-rate 39·14. The birth-rate per mille amongst Europeans was 26·5 and the death-rate 12·3.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, there having been no serious epidemic.

Neither of the two European towns in the Colony has any system of sanitary drainage, the dry-earth system being used. The Town Boards of Suva and Levuka are paid sanitary grants of £200 and £100 respectively. The question of improving the sanitary system of Suva is at present under consideration.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1907 was 147·493 inches. The greatest daily rainfall was 12·107 inches on 18th December.

The highest temperature in the shade was 90·9 on 8th January, and the lowest 59·0 on 31st July.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters and post-cards.	678,069	23,085	32,670	278,368	280,345	1,292,537
Newspapers ...	239,956	38,054	5,965	136,960	26,925	447,860
Book packets, &c.	45,834	7,963	1,490	36,797	6,298	98,382
Parcels	2,014	808	153	4,022	369	7,366
Telegrams ...	6,063	—	—	—	—	6,063
				Despatched.		Received.
	Including registered ...			10,968		10,444

Money Orders were issued and paid as follows during 1907:—

	Issued in Colony.			Paid in Colony.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom ...	4,546	5	9	396	10	7
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	13,393	14	6	1,862	7	4
Within the Colony ...	4,366	15	5	—		
Total ...	£22,306	15	8	£2,258	17	11

An annual subsidy of £2,282 4*s.* 11*d.* is paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails. Interinsular services are also subsidised to the extent of £3,500.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ is by cable. The total cost of construction was £3,370.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) *viâ* Nausori, Nadarivatu, and Ba.

The establishment of a system of wireless telegraphy between Suva and Vanualevu is under consideration. The cost is estimated at £11,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony was represented at the New Zealand International Exhibition at Christchurch. The exhibit included curiosities and other articles of native manufacture, and samples of such products as sugar, coprah, tea, coffee, cocoa, rubber, cassava, peanuts, cotton, fibres, ginger, &c. The cost of the exhibit was £958. There can be no doubt that the exhibit has had excellent results in drawing attention to the possibilities for investment of capital and openings for settlement which this Colony offers.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

There is regular and frequent steam communication between the Colony and Sydney and Auckland.

Beyond the immediate vicinity of the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic. There is a metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of 12 miles, and this road is continued, though only partly metalled, for some 10 miles up the other side of the Rewa river. A road is in course of construction from Suva round the harbour to the sugar centre at Navua, a distance of 32 miles. Bridle tracks exist almost everywhere. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. There is daily communication by means of steam launches between Suva and the sugar centres of Rewa and Navua. There is also a weekly service to Lautoka, *viâ* Levuka and Ba. Communication between the islands is maintained by three steamers and a fleet of 198 sailing vessels, of which 120 are owned by natives.

IMMIGRATION.

During 1907, 2,466 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta and 641 returns were repatriated. The average cost of introduction for the past five years is £16.

Indian immigrants come to the Colony for a term of ten years, the first five of which is under indenture. At the end of ten years an immigrant is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of general revenue.

On 31st December, 1907, the estimated Indian population was 32,201, of whom 11,689 were under indenture. The estimated area of land under cultivation by free Indians was 17,204 acres.

During 1907, 221 (so-called) Polynesian immigrants were introduced from the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides, and 66 immigrants were returned to their homes.

Under an arrangement entered into with the Government of the Australian Commonwealth, 351 Polynesians introduced into Queensland under provision of the Pacific Labourers' Act, and subject to compulsory repatriation under the recent Commonwealth legislation, were engaged for service in this Colony, were embarked in Brisbane, and arrived by steamers of the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line. Only male adults were engaged. The term of agreement was for a period of two years under indenture, at a rate of £14 per annum wages, and subject to an increased scale of rations and clothing equivalent to that provided under the Queensland Act.

The physical character of the immigrants passed as fit for indenture appeared above the average, and well suited for plantation work. Many of the arrivals from Queensland stated that they had resided in that State for a long time, some of them for twenty years, and, on inquiry being made, seemed to have a general knowledge of various employments which should render them of value in this Colony.

The total sum advanced by the Government to employers to cover a proportion of the cost of introduction of Polynesian immigrants allotted to them, subject to repayment by half-yearly instalments and security, was £1,718 15*s.* advanced to twelve employers.

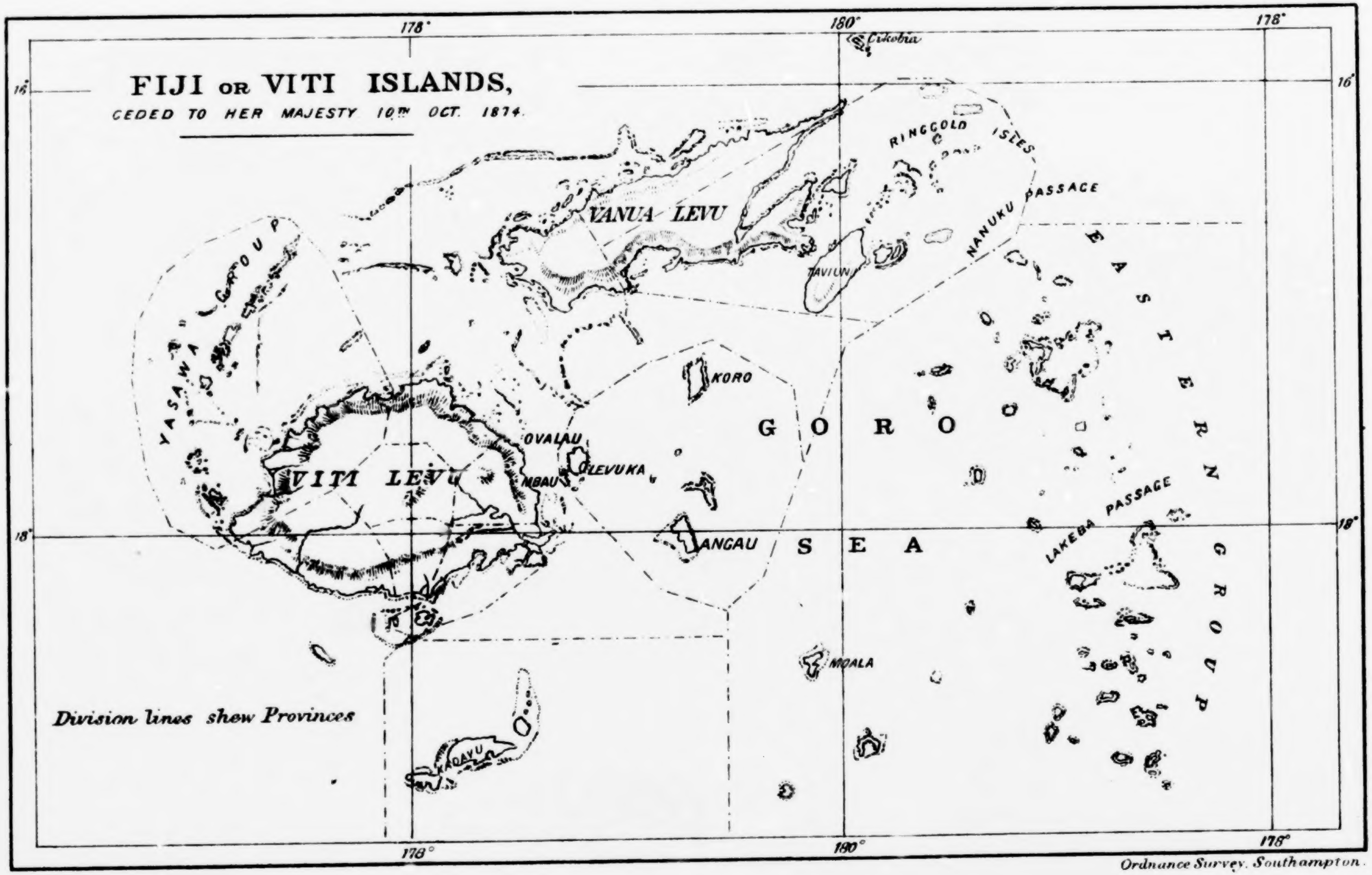
The Polynesian immigrant population, inclusive of children born in the Colony, appears to consist of males, 2,268; females, 353; total 2,621.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works during 1907 (exclusive of establishments) was £30,256. The main items of expenditure were:—Maintenance and construction of public buildings, £9,458; new roads and upkeep of roads, £10,597; bridges, £1,749; water supplies to native villages, £2,105.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as highly satisfactory. The imports and exports have largely increased during the past few years, and there is every indication that this increase will be continued. The large areas of land which the Government have secured from the natives



FIJI OR VITI ISLANDS,

CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH OCT. 1874.

Division lines shew Provinces

178°
180°
178°
16°
16°
18°
18°
Cikobia
VANUA LEVU
RINGGOLD ISLES
NANUKU PASSAGE
TAVIUNI
YASAWA GROUP
VITI LEVU
OVALAU
LEVUKA
MBAU
KORO
GORO SEA
ANGAU
EASTERN GROUP
LAKEBA PASSAGE
MOALA
KADAVU
178°
180°
178°

Ordnance Survey. Southampton.

and thrown open for lease should considerably facilitate settlement.

At present the three staple exports, sugar, coprah, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) represent 98 per cent. of the total export trade of the Colony. Such minor products as cocoa, rubber, fibres, &c., can be successfully grown, and there is room for considerable increase in their cultivation.

The climate, though warm and moist, is healthy, and not unsuited to Europeans. Endemic malarial fever is unknown. Manual work is performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed as overseers or skilled labourers.

The following are the average rates of wages:—Artisans, carpenters, and boatbuilders, 14*s*. per diem; blacksmiths, £4 per week; overseers, £2 to £5 per week.

I have, &c.,

WM. SUTHERLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
546	Grenada	1906–1907
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–08.
64	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 618.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 580.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1909.

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SKETCH MAP.

No. 618.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 580.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
31st August, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1908. I regret that, owing to unusual pressure of work this year in the office of the Colonial Secretary, there has been delay in the completion and forwarding of the report.

I have, &c.,

EVERARD IM THURN.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1908.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Suva,
20 August, 1909.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1908:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The amount of revenue received under the various heads for the years 1908 and 1907 is shown in the following statement:—

Head of Revenue.	1908.			1907.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	106,595	8	9	107,135	0	1
Port, Harbour, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues ...	9,051	19	10	9,100	19	9
Native Taxes	16,155	17	6	16,397	2	9
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified	15,858	2	5	15,911	1	7
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid	12,591	3	3	12,223	5	4
Post Office	5,202	8	5	4,958	6	4
Rent of Government Property	1,789	7	7	1,757	11	7
Interest	5,041	10	9	4,587	10	7
Miscellaneous	2,529	7	2	2,023	17	1
Land Sales	3,200	0	0	10	0	0
	£178,015	5	8	£179,801	18	6

The following is a statement of the expenditure under the various heads for the years 1908 and 1907:—

Head of Expenditure.	1908.			1907.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt	13,227	10	0	13,241	0	0
Pensions	4,515	15	9	4,066	6	5
The Governor and Legislature	3,862	10	1	3,933	11	3
Colonial Secretary's Department	3,355	12	6	2,320	1	2
Government Printing Office	2,644	4	11	2,574	18	9
Audit Department	814	15	11	783	5	0
Postal Department	8,535	16	3	8,945	18	11
Native Department	8,462	8	10	8,320	1	9
Treasury	3,536	9	2	2,801	15	1
Customs Department ...	4,986	7	2	4,973	5	1
Carried forward ...	£53,941	10	7	£51,960	3	5

Head of Expenditure.	1908.			1907.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	53,941	10	7	51,960	3	5
Port and Marine Department	2,802	17	3	2,944	2	5
Immigration Department ...	7,782	14	0	7,045	16	7
Judicial and Legal Departments	12,092	8	7	11,251	15	4
Fiji Constabulary	10,297	6	5	9,870	15	0
Volunteer Corps	—			2,100	10	3
Fiji Rifle Association ...	1,768	7	6	—		
Prisons Department ...	5,412	12	6	4,380	8	1
Medical Department ...	12,880	14	4	12,737	2	10
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Asylum ...	14,380	4	0	3,443	8	1
Education	2,439	16	0	1,954	4	2
Transport	5,110	13	1	5,219	13	9
Agricultural Department ...	3,054	18	9	3,687	19	2
Miscellaneous	3,386	9	11	2,709	5	2
Lands Department	8,569	6	4	4,970	10	10
Works Department ...	2,505	11	4	2,279	9	3
Public Works, Annually Recurrent	12,369	14	0	10,817	17	4
	£158,795	4	7	£137,373	1	8
Public Works Extraordinary	39,003	11	6	19,438	6	4
Total	£197,798	16	1	£156,811	8	0

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1904	139,404	16	0	158,166	16	11
1905	192,974	15	2	132,043	2	6
1906	185,423	19	9	149,373	14	10
1907	179,801	18	6	156,811	8	0
1908	178,015	5	8	197,798	16	1

For three years previous to 1908 the revenue of the Colony has exceeded the revenue for 1908, but this is explained by the fact that the revenue for these years included extraordinary amounts representing sums transferred to general revenue from the Indian Return Passages Fund, the Polynesian Return Passages Fund, and the Indian Settlements Fund. By a deduction of these amounts the normal revenue for these years is shown to be as follows:—

	£
1905	136,620
1906	158,386
1907	174,104

The revenue received for the year 1908, viz., £178,015 5*s.* 8*d.*, shows an actual decrease of £1,786 12*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with the total revenue for 1907, although on comparison with the normal revenues enumerated above an improvement will be apparent in that the normal revenue of the Colony in 1908 is shown to be greater by £3,911.

The principal increase in revenue for 1908 was under the head Land Sales (£3,190) and Miscellaneous (£506), but a reference to the tabulated statement above will show other slight increases. It is noticeable that the revenue received under the head of Customs for 1907 is in advance of that in respect of 1906 by £7,542, whereas for the year 1908 a decrease of £540 is shown. This is mainly due to changes in the Customs tariff in 1907 and 1908, the principal effect of which has been to reduce the duty on kerosene from 9*d*. to 4*d*. per gallon, and to fix the duty on all drapery at 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* in place of a specific duty. The proportion of Customs duties levied to the value of dutiable imports has been lowered from 25·77 in 1905 to 19·60 in 1908—evidenced by the figures showing the value of dutiable imports for the two years, which are respectively £320,971 in 1905 and £543,825 in 1908. Had the average for the four years 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1908 been maintained, the duty collected in 1908 would have amounted to £123,720, or an increase of £17,125 on the actual amount collected.

If this increase in imports is maintained it is hoped that the revenue may eventually make good the loss caused by reductions in the tariff.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1908, amounted to £148,242 11*s*. 3*d*. An amount of £123,415 is invested in stocks, and £31,000 placed on deposit at interest by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1908, stood as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial Loan (without interest)	50,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½ per cent.)	73,300	0	0
	£124,115	1	3

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of debentures; the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1908 the debt was reduced by £9,800.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. There are two private banks established in the Colony, namely, the Bank of New South Wales and the Bank of New Zealand, both of which have branches at Suva and Levuka. Both these banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation on the 31st December being estimated at £5,940. It will be seen that the circulation of notes has become greater, and is steadily increasing. This is due to an effort of the local banks to retain within the Colony, so far as is possible, gold imported by them from Australia and New Zealand, for which they have to pay freight and insurance at the rate of from 10*s*. per £1,000. The policy of the banks is due to the fact that gold to some very considerable amount is hoarded by East Indians chiefly, and taken away with them on repatriation. The amount of gold thus withheld from circulation in recent years has been a considerable one.

In addition to these banks a Government Savings Bank was opened on the 13th February, 1908. To the end of the year deposits to the value of £1,908 5*s*. were made, and £406 9*s*. 4*d*. withdrawn, leaving a sum of £1,501 15*s*. 8*d*. to credit of depositors. No interest has yet been earned by the bank, but moneys have been placed on fixed deposit with the local banks earning 3 per cent. interest, as against 2½ per cent. paid to depositors. It is hoped that facilities will be given to the public to use the bank at places other than Suva in the near future. The best means by which these facilities may be afforded for the public in other districts have not yet been decided upon, and pending the adoption of regulations to govern branch savings banks, it has been considered inadvisable to open the contemplated branch of the bank at Levuka.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Town and School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1904	2,247	2,808	1,451	2,042
1905	2,967	3,069	1,452	1,065
1906	2,727	3,031	1,263	1,374
1907	2,812	2,857	1,135	1,129
1908	3,147	3,091	1,102	1,554

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1904	1,099	1,309	605	694
1905	1,106	1,065	665	651
1906	1,007	842	628	646
1907	1,017	964	730	660
1908	1,235	1,031	839	915

The debt of the Suva Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £2,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. The loan was raised to provide a portion of the cost of construction of a Town Hall (£1,200) and the renewal of two bridges (£800). On 31st December, 1908, the debt stood at

£1,600. The debt of the Levuka Town Board consists of a debenture loan of £500, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £50 per annum. The debt stood at £300 on 31st December, 1908.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1907 and 1908:—

Nature of Import.	1907. £	1908. £
Bacon and Hams	2,661	2,784
Bags and Sugar-mats	19,950	25,462
Beer	5,115	6,189
Books	1,884	2,765
Boots and Shoes...	7,396	6,720
Breadstuffs and Biscuits ...	40,873	51,015
Bran and Pollard	4,966	6,478
Butter and Ghee	12,318	14,422
Cement	3,573	7,191
Coal	25,557	19,790
Cordage	4,403	3,662
Cutlery	4,904	3,570
Drapery	118,214	117,566
Drugs	6,086	6,560
Fish	9,085	10,808
Furniture	3,796	4,293
Galvanised Iron and Goods ...	11,546	16,087
Glassware and Crockery ...	3,289	3,486
Hardware	44,738	46,801
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	29,555	7,763
Jewellery	3,742	3,662
Leatherware	5,204	5,855
Live Stock	7,210	11,384
Machinery	39,451	44,574
Machinery—Agricultural ...	5,893	5,199
Manure	7,020	4,477
Meats	14,672	15,307
Oils	21,942	19,874
Paints	4,488	3,905
Rice	11,452	11,216
Ship Chandlery	2,893	1,908
Soap	1,133	1,062
Spirits	8,768	8,017
Stationery	5,0[illegible]	5,659
Sugar	3,86[illegible]	4,172
Timber	28,008	39,109
Tobacco	6,923	8,322
Vegetables and Green Fruit ...	4,992	7,587
Wines	3,014	2,783

The items showing increases of note are breadstuffs, timber, machinery, galvanised iron and goods, and live stock. The importation of drapery, although showing a slight decrease on comparison with the figures for 1907, continues in large quantities, and is due mainly to the increased purchasing power of the native owing to the high price obtained for copra, a steady and increasing demand for native-grown bananas, and the moneys derived from the purchase and lease of native lands. Other increases are due mainly to the increased steady extension of cane cultivation in connection with the sugar industry, and the apparent general prosperity of the Colony.

The staple products of the Colony and the principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit (chiefly bananas). It is hoped that in the near future cocoa, rubber, and sisal hemp will be added to the list of exports.

The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years are given in the following statement:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1904	52,138	469,391	7,406	86,140	22,102
1905	58,488	539,594	10,200	125,892	28,996
1906	38,523	347.198	9,772	143,683	97,678
1907	66,597	602,820	11,290	182,788	79,891
1908	66,149	647,306	12,931	154,488	62,217

The export of sugar for 1908 shows a decrease of 448 tons, as compared with 1907, and exceeds the export of 1906 by 27,626 tons. The decrease in 1906 was occasioned by a drought in 1905. Notwithstanding the decrease in quantity of sugar exported in 1908, as compared with that exported in 1907, the declared value for 1908 was £44,486 in excess of that for 1907. The profits from sugar cultivation are largely enjoyed by absentee proprietors, although the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have recently inaugurated a system of farming out their estates generally, thus providing a means whereby planters selected by them are given the opportunity of permanently settling in the Colony as cane cultivators. Some proportion of the total profits from this industry, so far as the community is concerned, should thus be retained in the Colony.

The value of green fruit exported shows a decrease of £47,481, as compared with the figures for 1907, and a still greater decrease as compared with 1906. This decrease is due mainly to the effects of gales which caused considerable damage to the fruit trees, and also to low prices prevailing, as compared with those for the two preceding years.

In 1906 and 1907 the demand for bananas considerably increased in Australia where the main supply had been practically destroyed by a severe hurricane in Queensland.

The following table prepared by the Government Fruit Inspector gives the quantities of bananas exported during the last five years, and an estimate of the total crop that should be available for export during the present year, 1909, and next year, 1910:—

Year.	Quantity shipped. Bunches.
1904	299,038
1905	313,829
1906	997,897
1907	847,321
1908	649,400

Year.	Estimated crop. Bunches.
1909	853,340
1910	1,058,060

The quantity of copra exported in 1908 was 1,641 tons in excess of that for 1907, while the declared value was £28,300 less than that declared in 1907. The prices prevailing in 1907 were, however, exceptionally high. The industry continues to be a valuable one, and shows a tendency to increase steadily.

The principal minor exports were turtle-shell (£1,747), cocoanuts (£1,841), maize (£1,521), hides and pelts (£1,096), and tea (£1,014).

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1904	439,995	589,990
1905	442,852	706,403
1906	609,496	603,410
1907	643,007	881,364
1908	662,654	878,393

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties levied. £
1904	81,967
1905	82,725
1906	99,594
1907	107,078
1908	106,595

The greater part of the import trade is done with Sydney, New South Wales, and, in fact, for the past few years the whole of the imports from Australasia have come from New South Wales and New Zealand. It is anticipated, however, that if the new service between Fiji, Sydney, and Melbourne is inaugurated Victoria will resume its former place as a State with which a considerable interchange of commerce will take place. The proposed service, which will afford insulated refrigerating space for the transport of fruit and vegetables, making it possible to open up new markets for such produce, should assist materially in the expansion of the Colony's export trade.

In future years the Blue Book return will show, as far as possible, the country of origin of each article of import. At the present date importations are shown from the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand which to a very large extent have their origin in the United Kingdom and in countries in Europe.

It is satisfactory to note that the total trade of the Colony in 1908 is the highest yet recorded in its history, and exceeds that of the previous year, the next highest, by £16,676. The increase is due to a considerable extent to the increased declared value of sugar to the amount of £44,486, although, as has already been pointed out in this report, the quantity exported was less than in 1907.

The value of imports rose from £442,852 in 1905 to £662,654 in 1908, an increase of 50 per cent. during the four years, which must be considered highly satisfactory. The increase in the value of exports during the same period was about 25 per cent.

During the year some attempt has been made to prospect for minerals, and traces of gold have been found on some of the islands. Specimens of gold, copper, silver, and coal have recently been presented, but it is not known whether any of these are to be found in payable quantities. There are, however, various syndicates and persons at present engaged in prospecting, and under enactments and regulations recently made and passed by the Legislative Council a systematic endeavour is being made to establish a mining industry.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to various mills, &c., established in the Colony and the nominal daily output:—

—	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lb. dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards	14	—
Soapworks	1	9 cwt. soap.
Sawmills	4	—

The cultivation of sugar cane, cocoanuts, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) at present form the staple agricultural industries of the Colony. There are six sugar-mills in operation in the Colony, of which four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Sydney. The total area of land under cane cultivation is estimated at 48,052 acres, from which were produced in 1908, 607,810 tons of sugar cane.

The area under cocoanuts is estimated at 29,036 acres, but this represents European cultivation only—no returns of the area cultivated by natives being furnished. The total quantity of copra exported during 1908 was 12,931 tons, valued at £154,488.

The area under bananas and pineapples was 4,050 acres, but this does not include native cultivation. Considerable areas of bananas are now cultivated by natives who sell their produce to European and Chinese agents for shipment. All fruit exported from the Colony is subject to inspection by the Inspector of Fruit, and any fruit unfit for exportation is discarded by that officer. By these means endeavour is made to keep the quality of fruit exported at a high level, and to ensure the efficient shipment of fruit.

The total area of Crown land is estimated at 47,900 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under grant is approximately 465,558 acres. In addition to the Crown land mentioned above some 120,000 acres of land have been acquired by Government with a view to encouraging settlement. This land is divided into different classes suitable respectively to the cultivation of cocoanuts, rubber, and to grazing purposes. At the date of writing this report further large areas of native lands have been placed at the disposal of the Government to be leased on behalf of the owners.

The following statement shows the total area of native land leased and purchased during 1908:—

	Area. Acres.	Rent or price. £
Total defined land leased ...	10,097	... 2,429
Total land leased but not yet surveyed	15,916	... 945
Purchases	19,594	... 7,085
Grants	368	... —
Total	45,975	... 10,459

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1907 and 1908 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1908.		1907.		1908.		1907.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	126	241,528	133	207,149	122	232,215	128	202,727
Do. ...	Sailing	6	1,743	11	2,988	6	1,743	9	1,136
American ...	Do.	2	902	1	642	2	902	2	1,162
Norwegian	Do.	—	—	3	2,286	—	—	—	—

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1904	183,761	175,000	358,761
1905	194,299	193,102	387,401
1906	213,065	205,025	418,090
1907	228,121	227,108	455,229
1908	244,173	234,760	478,933

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coastal licences during 1908 was as follows:—

Description.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	49	783
Native-owned vessels	122	796
Chinese-owned vessels	23	252
Half-caste-owned vessels	11	196
Total	205	2,027

It will be seen by the statement above that the number of vessels entered throughout the year was less than that of 1907, although the total tonnage of these vessels is greater. The class and size of vessel visiting the Colony is improving.

The following figures show the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Colony during the past four years:—

Year.	No.	Tons.
1905	137	194,299
1906	148	213,065
1907	151	228,121
1908	134	244,173

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1908:—

Ordinance XI—relating to Merchant Shipping—provides for the application to ships registered in Fiji of the discipline clauses of the Merchant Shipping Act (57 and 58 Vic., c. 60).

Ordinance XIII—amending the law relating to prospecting for and mining metals and other minerals—makes provision for the licensing of prospectors, and enacts that no miner's right or prospecting licence shall authorise the entering upon (*a*) any land actually and lawfully occupied by buildings, or being used as a garden planting ground, plantation, ornamental pleasure ground, or set apart as a cemetery, (*b*) any native village, (*c*) any land while actually under crop, (*d*) any land situated within 100 yards of any spring in use as a source of water supply, or any artificial reservoir, dam waterworks, or buildings.

Under this Ordinance a prospecting licence is limited to a term of two years from the date of issue, and shall not be issued in respect of any area exceeding ten thousand acres. The Governor in Council is empowered to make regulations under this Ordinance.

Ordinance XV. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1908. In past years the Supreme Court has sat only in Suva, but this Ordinance provides for the holding of Circuit Courts within areas other than Suva as the Governor may from time to time prescribe.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the School Fund of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to children within the school districts of Suva and Levuka, between six and fourteen years of age. The subjects of an ordinary education are taught. There are two aided public schools under these School Boards. The Suva school has five teachers and an average attendance of 117; the school at Levuka has two teachers and an average attendance of 81·3. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria. During 1907 a grant was made from general revenue of £1,500 for the establishment of a boarding house in connection with the Levuka School. The building and arrangements were completed in 1908 at a total cost from general revenue considerably in excess of the original estimate. Accommodation is now provided for the education of a limited number of the children of residents in country districts. There are also three Roman Catholic Schools for Europeans in the Colony with an average attendance of 175.

The education of the natives throughout the group is at present almost entirely provided for by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,018 schools with 2,206 teachers and 19,409 scholars, and the latter 28 boarding schools with 11 European teachers, 225 native teachers, and 1,750 scholars.

The native school established by the Government, from funds contributed by the natives to a large extent, in the vicinity of Suva, provides for the higher education of native youths. At the present date accommodation is provided for 35 boys who are selected from the provinces. It is hoped that provision will be made for a greater number of boys at an early date. The work of the school is carried on principally in English, under the direction of a European Headmaster—a graduate of Cambridge University. The natives in the provinces, with a view to the general advancement and prosperity of their race, have shown a strong desire to establish provincial schools under the direction of European masters at various centres. The natives of Lau, with the assistance of Government, granted an excellent site and erected a number of substantial native buildings which have been suitably fitted up for school purposes. The school has been opened recently, and is in the charge of a European master. The number of boys at the school is 45, and their ages range from 10 to 13 years. The education which has been imparted to the people of Lau is found to be of a much lower standard than that of other centres, and this is explained perhaps by the remoteness of this province from Suva, and to its being a much scattered group of islands. The natives' contribution towards the maintenance of this school amounts, at present, to about £340 per annum, which is to be supplemented pound for pound by a grant from Government.

A similar movement for better education has extended to other provinces, viz., Tailevu, Cakaudrove, and Macuata and Bua. The people of these provinces have undertaken to provide the necessary buildings and to contribute annually towards maintenance of the schools. They desire the assistance of Government on the same footing as given to the school in the Lau group referred to above. But a decision as to what form these schools will actually take and the help to be accorded them has been reserved pending the report of the Education Commission now sitting.

On the 26th January, 1909, a Commission was appointed by the Acting Governor to enquire into existing methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of Europeans and natives in the Colony, and to advise as to the steps to be taken to bring about improvements in the same. The Commission has not yet reported.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by a matron, 2 staff nurses, 1 graduate nurse, and 3 pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1908 there were 1,516 patients admitted to hospital, of whom 164 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £1,844 and the expenditure to £3,499.

There are eight Provincial Hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are under the charge of Government Medical Officers assisted by Native Medical Practitioners who are trained at the Colonial Hospital at Suva.

It is proposed to build a hospital at Levuka, the town next in importance to Suva. A site has been obtained, and when erected the hospital will be maintained and worked on much the same principles as is the Colonial Hospital, Suva.

There were 3,756 natives admitted to the Provincial Hospitals during 1908.

The Lunatic Asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder, and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of the Asylum. During 1908 there were 21 admissions, 10 discharges, and 10 deaths—leaving 21 inmates on the 31st December, 1908.

On the Leper Station at Beqa expenditure was incurred to the amount of £306. The number of inmates on the 31st December was 35, as compared with 39 for the previous year.

With a view to the entire segregation of lepers, the Government is at present erecting an asylum on the island of Mokogai, which has been acquired for the purpose. Suitable buildings for patients, overseers, and officials are being erected, and food plantations are being prepared. It is proposed to place the asylum under the direct supervision of a European Medical Officer, who will be resident upon the island. I may mention here that under the law relating to leper asylums the Governor in Council may, from time to time, appoint a medical officer having charge of a leper asylum to have and exercise all the powers of a Stipendiary Magistrate therein with respect to all offences committed by persons detained as lepers. Any decision of a medical officer in this connection is subject to the same rights of appeal as decisions of Stipendiary Magistrates. A Home for the aged and infirm at Suva is subsidised by Government to the extent of £100 per annum.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians, Indians, and Polynesians officered by Europeans, and supervised by an Inspector General. The cost of the force during 1908 was £10,297 6*s*. 5*d*.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of the Superintendent of Prisons, and the gaols at each of the Magistrates' stations are under the supervision of the resident European officers of Police, who are, in conjunction with their police duties, appointed keepers of the various goals. The whole of the gaols are under the control of the Inspector General of Prisons who is resident in Suva. The cost for 1908 of the prisons at Suva and Levuka was £5,005 10*s*. 8*d*.

The total number of prisoners admitted to Suva and Levuka gaols during 1908 was 938. Prisoners are employed on certain public works and road-making.

The total offences reported to the police in 1908 was 6,700—a decrease of 612, as compared with the figures for 1907. Of these offences 1,043 were offences against the person, 407 larceny, 349 offences against property, and 4,901 other offences—chiefly breaches of the labour laws by indentured labourers. Eleven persons were executed for murder during 1908, as against three for the preceding year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1908, as compared with census returns of March, 1901:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1908.		
	Males	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	1,531	928	2,459	2,041	1,304	3,345
Half-castes	759	757	1,516	901	863	1,764
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	21,733	11,409	33.142
Polynesians	1,584	366	1,950	2,379	357	2,736
Rotumans	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,116	1,185	2,301
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,576	41,538	87 114
Others	254	213	467	276	213	489

Total population, 130,891.

The estimated native population on the 31st December, 1907, was 87,029. During 1908 there were 3,327 births and 3,242 deaths registered, showing a net increase of 85. The statistics for the three preceding years showed respectively a decrease of 97 and increases of 32 and 133. The birth-rate per mille was 38·19 and death-rate 37·13.

The following is an extract from a report by the Native Commissioner on the vital statistics of the native population:—

> "The material prosperity of the natives continues to advance. In spite of all one hears of the difficulties of intending settlers in obtaining native land a considerable extension of settlement has taken place during 1908, and I am unaware of any who have failed to secure the lands they wanted, if available for leasing. The transactions sanctioned by the Governor in Council during the year were:—

Leases	501	Area 23,646 acres.
Sales*	19	„ 19,625 „
Grants	3	„ 361 „

---

* 14,182 acres acquired by Government chiefly owing to Mataqalis having become reduced in numbers or altogether extinct.

" The total number of existing native leases is now 2,146 and the rental derived therefrom £20,186.

" Some progress has been made in the settlement of the Mataqali lands, but the work, in my opinion, does not proceed fast enough, and in another paper I have urged the appointment of a second Commissioner, so as to hasten the completion of the registration of the whole of the lands. I receive frequent and urgent appeals to have this work done from the provinces that have not been visited by the Native Lands Commissioner. Where disputes exist and are hung up awaiting inquiry the natives remain unsettled and fail to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded them to improve their condition, owing to the uncertainty in regard to land. I look upon the registration of all Mataqali lands as a necessary preliminary to any change Government may desire to see introduced to facilitate and simplify land dealings.

" The work of the Land Commission was begun in the Ba Province in 1894. Registration of the land did not then go beyond the Yavusa (collection of Mataqalis or tribes) boundaries. Settlement has progressed so rapidly, however, in that quarter that there are now between 800 and 900 leases running, and difficulty has been experienced in sub-dividing the rents among the many landowners. The Commissioner has again visited the Province and made a further sub-division of the land down to the Tokatoka (family) which will render it comparatively easy to make a satisfactory division.

" Although the natives are leasing their lands extensively they are by no means neglecting cultivation on their own account. In the inland provinces of Colo North, East, and West the production of bananas, tobacco, yaqona, and kava is largely engaged in. I am assured that some individuals made as much as from £80 from the sale of tobacco alone last year. But in the low country near the coast the natives do even better for themselves—especially those living on the Rewa delta."

The above remarks of the Native Commissioner would appear to indicate that the individual native may make very considerable progress and still remain a member of the commune. The communal obligations are now so light that no obstacle exists to prevent a native acquiring property and enjoying its full use.

The birth-rate per mille amongst Europeans was 20·79 and the death-rate 14·6.

There is no sanitary drainage system either in Suva or Levuka, but the question of improving the sanitary system is still under consideration. It is hoped that a proper system of drainage will before long be carried into effect, and provision made for the thorough sanitation of these towns.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1908 was 104·850 inches. The greatest daily rainfall was 8·760 inches on the 17th May.

The highest temperature in the shade was 94·9° F. on the 10th February, and the lowest 60·4° F. on the 25th August.

VIII.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

—	Internal	External.				
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		Total.
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters and post-cards.	749,181	26,343	35,395	208,605	207,809	1,227,333
Newspapers ...	250,988	33,449	56,689	140.761	28,609	459,496
Book packets, &c.	46,819	9,396	1,060	32,714	5,434	95,423
Parcels	1,887	915	128	7,148	453	10,531
Telegrams	6,475	—	—	—	—	6,475
					Despatched	Received
	Including registered... ...				12,312	11,709

Money Orders were issued and paid as follows:—

—	Issued in Colony.	Paid in Colony.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom...	4,610 16 9	494 2 5
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries.	14,727 2 4	2,142 12 1
Within the Colony	6,184 11 6	6,234 15 6
Total	25,522 10 7	8,871 10 10

An annual subsidy of £2,282 4*s.* 11*d.* is paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails. Interinsular services are also subsidised to the extent of £3,500.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable. The total cost of construction was £3,370.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles) viâ Nausori, Nadarivatu, and Ba.

The system of wireless telegraphy between Suva and Vanualevu has not yet been carried into effect, but it is still under consideration.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year the Colony was represented at the Franco-British Exhibition. The exhibit included samples of the various products of the Colony, including essential oils and essences prepared by the Superintendent of Agriculture and resident planters. Some of these exhibits were subsequently forwarded to the Imperial Institute, and reports were obtained from that body on the quality and value of the different articles. The report on a sample of cocoa grown and produced in the Colony was a very favourable one, and the commercial value placed upon it was at the rate of 72*s*. per cwt. A sample of starch was found to be of high purity and very suitable for glucose manufacture. Aloe fibre was characterised as being of excellent lustre and of good length, the value being about £31 per ton. Ramie fibre was classed as being of very good quality. The Government have offered a bonus to the person producing the first ten tons of marketable sisal fibre, and it is hoped that an industry in the manufacture of this fibre will be established in the near future.

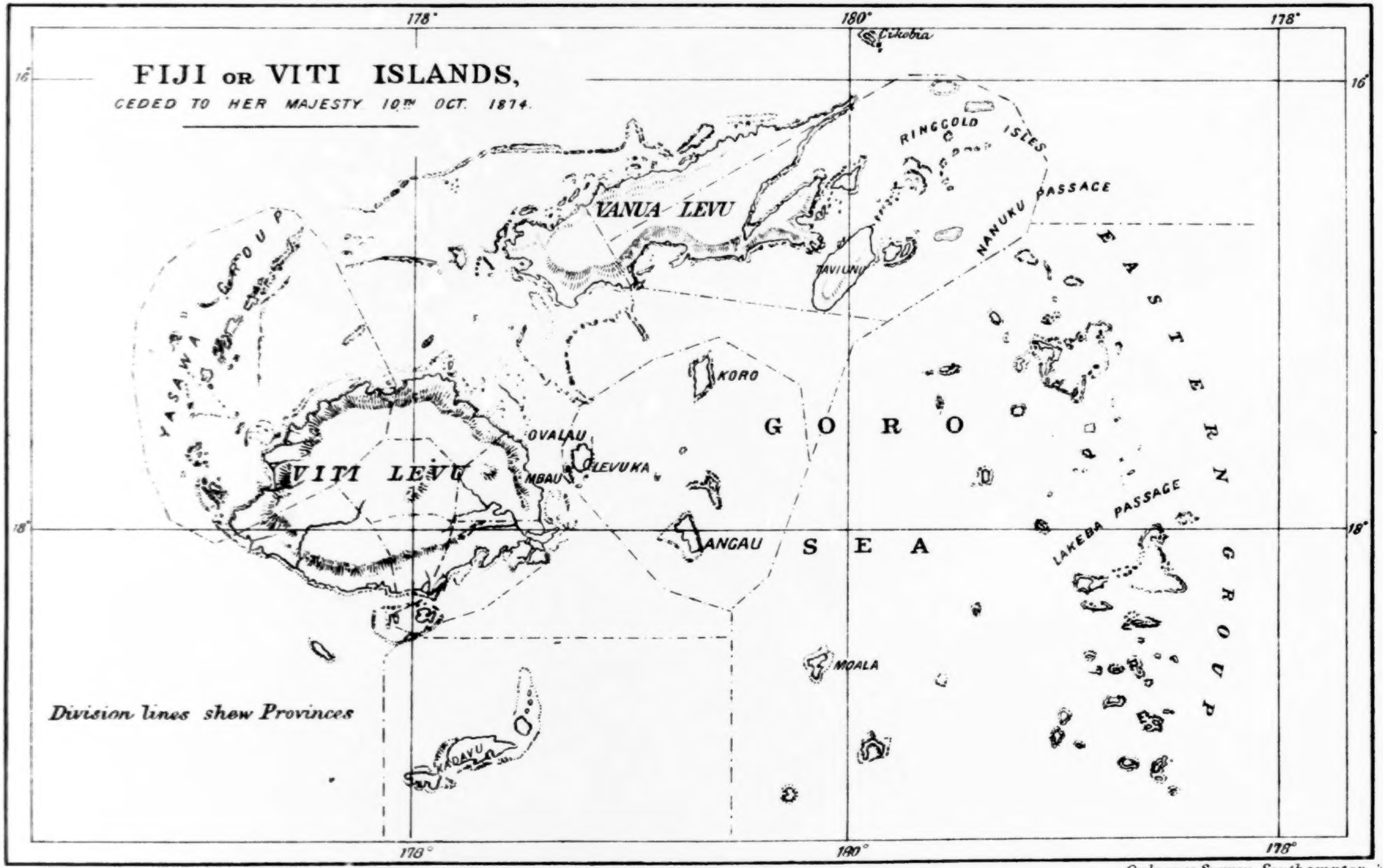
The means of communication throughout the group are much the same as in previous years, there being regular steam packets and sailing vessels plying from Suva to the outlying islands.

Beyond the municipalities of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fitted for wheeled traffic, but bridle tracks and native paths traverse the country almost everywhere.

Until recently these roads (outside the municipalities) were kept in order by the natives of the districts through which the roads pass. The formation of Road Boards, however, has practically brought under Government control the whole of the roads of the Colony, and their upkeep and maintenance is provided for by grants from general revenue. Under the new system driving roads are being made and bridges erected throughout the provinces, and it is hoped that by these means settlers will be attracted to those districts where settlement at present is absent.

During 1908 2,269 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta and 693 were repatriated. The average cost of introduction per caput for the past five years is £16. Indian immigrants come to the Colony for a term of ten years, the first five of which is under indenture. At the end of ten years an immigrant is entitled, with his wife and family, to a free passage to India at the expense of general revenue. On the 31st December, 1908, the estimated Indian population was 33,150, of whom 11,999 were under indenture. The estimated area of land actually under cultivation by "free Indians" was 12,502 acres.

During 1908, 214 Polynesian immigrants were introduced from the Solomon Islands, and 89 immigrants were returned to their homes. Of those introduced the number of immigrants who had been previously employed in other Colonies was 106—about 50 per cent. of the total number. Of these 97 had served under indenture in Queensland and 9 previously in Fiji. The Polynesian population of the Colony for some years has slowly but steadily increased, and the estimated total number in the Colony on the 31st December, 1908, viz., 2,736, exceeded that recorded for any past year since 1887. Notwithstanding the more frequent opportunities for return passages to their homes now afforded to time-expired immigrants a comparatively small proportion of them present themselves for repatriation. The



FIJI OR VITI ISLANDS,

CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH OCT. 1874.

Division lines show Provinces

178°
180°
178°
16°
18°
Cikobia
VANUA LEVU
RINGGOLD ISLES
NANUKU PASSAGE
TAVIUNI
YASAWA GROUP
EASTERN GROUP
KORO
OVALAU
LEVUKA
MBAU
VITI LEVU
GORO SEA
ANGAU
LAKEBA PASSAGE
MOALA
KADAVU

Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Polynesian as a resident in the Colony is generally free from disposition to crime of any kind. The wages paid to this class of labourers are now much higher than a few years ago, and this fact has added to the incentive to remain as settlers in the Colony.

Advances were made to twelve employers to cover a proportion of the cost of introduction of Polynesian immigrants allotted to them, subject to repayment by half-yearly instalments and to security. The total sum advanced was £1,311.

The Polynesian immigrant population, inclusive of children born in the Colony, appears to consist of—males, 2,380; females, 356; total, 2,736.

The total expenditure on Public Works during 1908 (exclusive of establishments) was £51,373. The main items of expenditure were:—New roads and bridges, £16,594; new public buildings, £5,392; maintenance of public buildings, £4,587; additions and extensions to public buildings, £3,325; rifle range and road, &c., £2,719; and boarding establishment Levuka School, £2,400.

The rearing of stock has during the past few years become an industry of importance, and is likely to extend considerably. Sheep have been imported into the Colony and are apparently thriving satisfactorily. There is much good grazing land at the disposal of Government, and facilities are afforded to farmers importing stock with a view to the establishment of the industry.

Although during 1908 the sale of native-owned lands to settlers was practically suspended by the Government, the Colony as a whole during that year, may be said to have advanced towards settlement and general prosperity; and especially may this be said with regard to the native population and the large number of Indian time-expired immigrants.

The settlement on the land of persons of European descent during the year was not so extensive as may have been anticipated, owing to the fact that this class of settler seeks to obtain freehold, and is inclined to spurn a leasehold, even for a period of 99 years.

I have, &c.,

EYRE HUTSON,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
The Governor,
Suva.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
583	Southern Nigeria	1907
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	,,
587	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	,,
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
594	Northern Nigeria	,,
595	Basutoland	,,
596	Swaziland	,,
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	,,
599	Falkland Islands	,,
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
603	Ashanti	,,
604	Ceylon	,,
605	Weihaiwei	,,
606	Seychelles	,,
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
613	Gold Coast	,,
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	,,
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do. 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture.
62	Uganda Protectorate	Cotton Industry.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 657.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 618.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1910.

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Sketch Map.

No. 657.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 618.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
29th August, 1910.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit for your Lordship's information a report by the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1909.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES MAJOR.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(17720-2.) Wt. 27349-387. 1125 & 85. 10/10. D & S.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary to His Excellency the Acting Governor.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Suva, Fiji, 27th August, 1910.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1909:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The amount of revenue received under the various heads for the year 1909 is shown in the following statement, viz.:—

Head of Revenue.	1908.			1909.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	106,595	8	9	106,357	7	0
Port, Harbour, Wharfage, and Lighthouse Dues ...	9,051	19	10	9,064	9	0
Native Taxes	16,155	17	6	16,094	18	8
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	15,858	2	5	16,283	4	9
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid	12,591	3	3	13,757	5	8
Post Office	5,202	8	5	5,748	9	9
Rent of Government Property	1,789	7	7	2,865	6	2
Interest	5,041	10	9	4,106	5	5
Miscellaneous	2,529	7	2	3,080	10	6
Land Sales	3,200	0	0	551	16	6
	£178,015	5	8	£177,909	13	5

The following is a statement of the expenditure under the various heads for the years 1908 and 1909:—

Head of Expenditure.	1908.			1909.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt	13,227	10	0	13,272	10	0
Pensions	4,515	15	9	4,820	19	10
The Governor and Legislature	3,862	10	1	4,382	19	10
Colonial Secretary's Department	3,355	12	6	3,903	14	1
Government Printing Office	2,644	4	11	2,908	18	1
Audit Department	814	15	11	824	1	4
Postal Department	8,535	16	3	8,816	9	5
Native Department ...	8,462	8	10	8,233	19	8
Carried forward ...	£45,418	14	3	£47,163	12	3

Head of Expenditure.	1908. £	s.	d.	1909. £	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	45,418	14	3	47,163	12	3
Treasury	3,536	9	2	2,859	16	8
Customs Department ...	4,986	7	2	4,940	13	2
Port and Marine Department	2,802	17	3	3,204	4	5
Immigration Department ...	7,782	14	0	7,006	12	3
Judicial and Legal Department	12,092	8	7	12,935	1	7
Fiji Constabulary	10,297	6	5	9,602	2	6
Fiji Rifle Association ...	1,768	7	6	1,169	12	10
Prisons Department ...	5,412	12	6	5,549	9	2
Medical Department ...	12,880	14	4	13,208	11	2
Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Leper Asylum ...	14,380	4	0	4,578	19	9
Education	2,439	16	0	2,371	4	6
Transport	5,110	13	1	5,655	17	3
Agricultural Department ...	3,054	18	9	2,572	5	6
Miscellaneous	3,386	9	11	5,563	16	4
Lands Department ...	8,569	6	4	4,504	10	2
Works Department ...	2,505	11	4	3,308	15	3
Public Works, Annually Recurrent	12,369	14	0	14,671	10	0
	£158,795	4	7	£150,866	14	9
Public Works Extraordinary	39,003	11	6	36,817	18	3
Total	£197,798	16	1	£187,684	13	0

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1905	192,974	15	2	132,043	2	6
1906	185,423	19	9	149,373	14	10
1907	179,801	18	6	156,811	8	0
1908	178,015	5	8	197,798	16	1
1909	177,909	13	5	187,684	13	0

The figures shown in the above statement would appear to indicate a general falling off of revenue, but the apparent decrease, *i.e.*, covering the whole period of five years is accounted for by the fact that at the conclusion of the year, owing to the strict enforcement of financial regulations and the consequent closing of the books on the 31st December, many items of revenue were carried over to 1910 revenue and not included in the figures of the year in respect of which the various amounts became due. The total revenue, as shown, is therefore not so great as it would otherwise have appeared. These remarks refer also to details of expenditure, which were for the same reason carried forward to 1910. The decrease, beyond that thus accounted for, is brought about principally by the reduction of Customs revenue consequent upon the revision of the Customs tariff. The general trade of the Colony, however, as will be shown later, is steadily increasing, and it is anticipated that the loss caused by the reduction of the tariff in 1908 will soon be covered by a large increase in imports.

The total revenue received for the year 1909, viz., £177,909 13*s*. 5*d*., shows an actual decrease of £105 12*s*. 3*d*. as compared with that for 1908, while the revenue received in respect of Customs dues has decreased to an amount of £238—or more than double the actual decrease in revenue. The total figures in respect of 1909—although showing a decrease as compared with 1908—are in advance of the normal revenue of 1907 by an amount of £3,806.

The principal increase in revenue during 1909 was under the heads of Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid (£1,116), and Rent of Government Property (£1,076), and the principal decrease was under the head of Land Sales (£2,649).

It is a noticeable fact that while the revenue derived from Customs shows a decrease for 1909, that year was remarkable in that the total trade of the Colony was the highest yet recorded in the history of the Colony, being in advance of the previous year—the next highest—by £42,339.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1909, amounted to £138,467 11*s*. 8*d*. An amount of £98,221 16*s*. 5*d*. is invested in stocks, and £11,500 is placed on deposit at interest by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1909, stood as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Imperial loan (without interest) ...	45,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at 4½ per cent.)	68,300	0	0
	£114,115	1	3

The Imperial loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is applied to the redemption of debentures: the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1909 the debt was reduced by £10,000 as against £9,800 during the previous year.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. There are two banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales, both of which have branches at Suva and Levuka. During the early part of the current year the last-named bank opened a branch at Lautoka. Both these banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation on the 31st December last being estimated at £7,682. The increase in the note issue mentioned in the report for 1908 continues steadily, and the estimate in respect of 1909 is in advance of that for 1908 by the sum of £1,922.

The business of the Government Savings Bank continues to progress satisfactorily. The amount deposited therein during 1909 was £3,722 as against £1,908 5*s*. deposited during 1908.

On the 31st December last the amount to the credit of depositors was £1,314 19*s*. 7*d*.—the number of depositors being 161, or an increase over the preceding year of 86.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure, during each of the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka municipalities and school boards:—

Year.	Suva Municipalty.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1905	2,967	3,069	1,452	1,065
1906	2,727	3,031	1,263	1,374
1907	2,812	2,857	1,135	1,129
1908	3,147	3,091	1,102	1,554
1909	3,215	3,575	1,555	1,433

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1905	1,106	1,065	665	651
1906	1,007	842	628	646
1907	1,017	964	730	660
1908	1,235	1,031	839	915
1909	967	1,011	741	714

The debt of the municipality of Suva consists of a debenture loan of £2,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. On the 31st December, 1909, the amount of the debt was £1,500. The debt of the municipality of Levuka consists of a debenture loan of £500, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and is repayable at the rate of £50 per annum. The debt stood at £250 on the 31st December last.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1908 and 1909:—

Nature of Import.	1908. £	1909. £
Bacon and hams	2,784	2,704
Bags and sugar-mats	25,462	20,059
Beer	6,189	5,278
Books	2,765	2,480

Nature of Import.	1908. £	1909. £
Boots and shoes	6,720	7,457
Breadstuffs and biscuits ...	51,015	56,713
Bran and Pollard	6,478	4,257
Butter and ghee	14,422	12,142
Cement	7,191	2,727
Coal	19,790	23,762
Cordage	3,662	3,864
Cutlery	3,570	3,431
Drapery	117,566	114,178
Drugs	6,560	5,782
Fish	10,808	12,043
Furniture	4,293	4,319
Galvanised iron and goods ...	16,087	16,848
Glassware and crockery ...	3,486	3,441
Hardware	46,801	41,042
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	7,763	11,909
Jewellery	3,662	3,969
Leatherware	5,855	5,813
Live stock	11,384	12,215
Machinery	44,574	22,077
,, agricultural ...	5,199	5,115
Manure	4,477	6,924
Meats	15,307	18,371
Oils	19,874	21,436
Paints	3,905	3,910
Rice	11,216	12,102
Ship chandlery	1,908	—
Soap	1,062	1,431
Spirits	8,017	8,070
Stationery	5,659	6,477
Sugar	4,172	4,723
Timber	39,109	32,164
Tobacco	8,322	8,407
Vegetables and green fruit ...	7,587	7,032
Wines	2,783	2,269

The items showing increases of note are breadstuffs and biscuits, coal, fish, iron, manure, meats, oils, and rice. These increases are mainly due to the continued extension of cane cultivation throughout the provinces in connection with the sugar industry.

Notable decreases occur under the heads—Machinery (£22,497) and Hardware (£5,759). This may be explained by the fact that during 1908 considerable quantities of material, classified under these heads, were imported in connection with the enlargement and renewal of various sugar mills in the Colony, and for the purpose of connecting by tramline certain distant sugar estates with their respective manufacturing centres. These items, though considerable in themselves, account for more than the amount by which the 1909 imports were short of those of 1908, and they represent mainly the gradual extension by the

Colonial Sugar Refining Company of the sugar industry in the Colony. It is anticipated, by reason of the present further development of hitherto unopened districts, that these items will, during the current year, reach a figure in excess of that for 1909.

The main exports, and the staple products of the Colony, continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit.

The quantity and value of the principal exports during the past five years are given in the following statement:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1905... ...	58,488	539,594	10,200	125,892	28,996
1906... ...	38,523	347,198	9,772	143,683	97,678
1907... ...	66,597	602,820	11,290	182,788	79,891
1908... ...	66,149	647,306	12,931	154,488	62,217
1909... ...	60,825	607,969	15,880	226,599	98,491

The figures show a decrease in the export of sugar for 1909 of 5,324 tons as compared with 1908. This deficiency was due, to a certain extent, to the short crop at Labasa, occasioned by the prolonged crushing season in 1908, during which year the mill at that centre was closed for crushing purposes in order to renew machinery and enlarge the mill. The cane thus left over for inclusion in the 1909 output was very considerably less, both in quantity and quality, than it would have been under ordinary circumstances.

The output of copra during the year was exceptionally high, showing an increase as compared with 1908, in the value of the quantity exported, of £72,111. This was due mainly to the greater demand and the consequent higher market price of that product which obtained throughout the year. The quantity exported exceeded that of the previous year by 2,949 tons.

A considerable increase has taken place also in regard to the exportation of green fruit. This item consists chiefly of bananas exported to Australia and New Zealand.

The following statement shows the quantities of bananas exported during each of the past five years:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1905	313,829	—
1906	604,617	191,640
1907	462,139	192,591
1908	356,180	145,110
1909	585,713	188,577

After deducting the three principal items of export from the value of the total exports of the Colony, the value of the minor products exported during each of the last four years amounted to:—

Year.	£
1906	9,799
1907	12,157
1908	13,321
1909	13,752

The principal minor exports were:—Molasses (£5,682), Turtle Shell (£2,381), Hides and Pelts (£1,333), and Maize (£932).

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1905	442,852	706,403
1906	609,496	603,410
1907	643,007	881,364
1908	662,654	878,393
1909	636,250	947,136

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties levied. £
1905	82,725
1906	99,594
1907	107,078
1908	106,595
1909	106,357

The greater part of the Colony's import trade is with the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, and with the United Kingdom, viâ Australia; but India, Canada, and the United States of America are countries with which an interchange of trade takes place. With regard to the country of origin of each article of import, statistics are at present being prepared which will show in detail the trade of the Colony and the total value of imports and exports from and to the various places with which an interchange of commerce takes place. The Blue Book return in respect of the current year will include these figures. With greater attention given to the products that figure, at present, as minor exports, especially in regard to cocoa and rubber as articles of export in the future, it is hoped that a larger proportion of the Colony's export trade will find its way to new markets.

The cultivation of rubber and the taking up of fresh areas of land for the purpose of planting rubber at the present date, indicate that this industry will be a valuable one in the near future. It is a notable fact that little damage was caused to rubber plantations by the hurricane in March last. On one plantation of 10,000 trees only six of these were seriously injured. The district in which this plantation is situated was otherwise considerably affected by the gale.

Some increased attention has also been given to the cultivation of sisal hemp, but, so far, the bonus of £500 offered by the Government for the first ten tons of fibre produced and exported has not been claimed. There are, however, various planters throughout the group who have planted considerable areas of sisal hemp, and it is hoped that the production of fibre will shortly become a new industry.

There are large areas of land available throughout the provinces eminently suitable for the cultivation of this product.

In the Blue Book report for 1908 reference was made to the endeavour to establish a mining industry. During 1909 the greater part of the country to which prospectors for minerals had been drawn was inspected and reported on by the Mining Adviser appointed for that purpose. The result of his investigations has shown that, contrary to expectations, Fiji is not rich in alluvial mineral deposits, nor has any payable alluvial ground been yet found or proved, although, as reported by the Mining Adviser, the gravel in certain rivers is auriferous in places. It is anticipated that much capital and skill will be required for the proper development of the mining resources of the Colony. This fact having been recognised is accountable, no doubt, for the small amount of prospecting work that is being carried on at the present date. While some districts have been unfavourably regarded for mining purposes, others hold out some promise. Altogether some 67,693 acres have been applied for for the purpose of prospecting. A few prospectors are still in the field, and areas are still being taken up for prospecting. There is a lull in mining operations while capital is being sought to explore properly and prove the various ore fields.

The following statement gives the particulars available of various factories, &c., established in the Colony, and the nominal daily output: —

	No.	Aggregate nominal daily output.
Sugar mills	6	420 tons dried sugar.
Tea factory	1	400 lbs. dried tea.
Boatbuilding yards ...	14	——
Soapworks	1	9 cwt. soap.
Sawmills	4	——

The cultivation of sugar-cane, coconuts, and green fruit (chiefly bananas) at present form the staple agricultural industries of the Colony. There are six sugar mills in operation in the Colony, of which four are owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Australia. The total area of land under sugar-cane cultivation on the 31st December, 1909, was estimated at 51,870 acres, from which were produced during the year under review 537,987 tons of sugar-cane.

The area under coconuts is estimated at 29,759 acres, but this represents European cultivation only—no returns of areas cultivated by natives being furnished or procurable. Native coconut groves, however, cover a large area of land, and the cultivation and preservation of these areas is fostered by Government. The total value of copra exported during 1909 was £226,599, the quantity produced being 15,880 tons, as against £154,488 and 12,931 tons during the preceding year. It is interesting to note that the prevalence of pests which attack the coconut trees throughout various islands of the group has not apparently affected the output of copra owing to the steady increase in the area planted in the districts not affected by the pest. It is, I fear, rightly supposed that the coconut leaf moth exists on the majority of the islands of the Colony, but in some places, although the trees show the work of insects, the pest is kept in check by some natural enemy, whether by other insects of a parasitic or prædatory nature, or by birds, cannot at present be determined. The question is at present being investigated. The coconut palms of the island of Vitilevu produce but few nuts, and it is believed that until some effectual parasite is introduced the copra industry of this island must be considered to be practically extinct. With a view to the eradication of insect pests, the appointment of an entomologist was sanctioned. It is hoped that his efforts will prove effectual in ridding the Colony of what appears likely to become a serious menace to one of its principal industries.

The area under bananas and pineapples on the 31st December last was 1,299 acres, but this also does not include native cultivation of these fruits. During 1909 the value of the output of green fruit was £36,274 in excess of that for 1908. This must be considered as highly satisfactory, and it is due, to some extent, to the opening of a new market in Melbourne (Australia) to the banana planters of the Colony by means of a subsidised steam service to carry the fruit in insulated cooled air compartments. With the object of improving the quality of bananas exported, each shipment of fruit is inspected prior to its leaving the Colony. By means of inspectors all fruit exported is properly handled in shipment and carefully stowed, and this ensures, to a great extent, the landing of fruit in good order at the port of destination, thus increasing the demand for Fiji green fruit and ensuring a good market for the Colony's green fruit trade.

The following statement of land alienations may be of interest:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants.	
Area held by Crown on Crown Grant	9,865
Area held by settlers on Crown Grant	416,481
Total area held on Crown Grant	426,346
Native Grants.	
Area held by Crown on Native Grant	50,648
Area held by settlers on Native Grant	35,753
Total area held on Native Grant	86,401
Native Leaseholds.	
Area held by Indians on Native leasehold	11,928
Area held by Europeans on Native leasehold ...	91,518
Total area of native leaseholds held by settlers	103,446

Crown Leaseholds.	Acres.
Area held by Indians on Crown leasehold	2,318
Area held by Europeans on Crown leasehold ...	16,395
Total area of Crown leaseholds held by settlers	18,713

It will thus be seen that the alienated lands of the Colony are as follows:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants	426,346
Native Grants	86,401
Total freehold area	512,747
Add native leasehold area	103,446
Total alienated area	616,193

In addition to the above the natives have placed in the hands of the Government, as open for settlement by lease, an area of approximately 150,000 acres of land, chiefly pastoral, in the dry zone, but 20,000 acres of it are suitable for the cultivation of rubber, cocoa, bananas, &c.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1908 and 1909 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1909.		1908.		1909.		1908.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	126	264,919	126	241,528	122	268,255	122	232,215
Do. ...	Sailing	9	4,813	6	1,743	6	2,660	6	1,743
German ...	Steam	1	458	—	—	1	458	—	—
American ...	Sailing	3	1,548	2	902	3	2,053	2	902
Norwegian	Steam	1	714	—	—	1	714	—	—

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coastal licences during 1909 was:—

Description.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	55	867
Native-owned ,, ...	130	968
Chinese-owned ,, ...	9	137
Halfcaste-owned ,, ...	16	218
	210	2,190

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1905	194,299	193,102	387,401
1906	213,065	205,025	418,090
1907	228,121	227,108	455,229
1908	244,173	234,760	478,933
1909	272,552	274,140	546,692

The following figures show the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	No.	Tons.
1905	137	194,299
1906	148	213,065
1907	151	228,121
1908	134	244,173
1909	140	272,552

The increased tonnage shown above indicates the better class of ships which are now employed by the various shipping companies with regard to the trade of the Colony.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1909:—

Ordinance XXV. The Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909.—By this enactment Town Boards are constituted Town Councils. The Ordinance provides for the proclamation of towns, and gives power to the Governor to alter and define boundaries of towns. Provision is made for the nomination of a certain number of members by the Governor to seats on the Council in consideration of the Government handing over the proceeds of licences in the town areas. The incorporation, composition, duties, and powers of Councils are set out and defined.

Ordinance XXIV. provides machinery for the raising by the issue of debentures any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole £100,000 for the exclusive purpose of carrying out such permanent public works as may from time to time be sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies after being approved by the Legislative Council. This Ordinance has since been repealed, but another Ordinance has been passed conferring powers for raising a loan to the same extent and for the same purposes.

Ordinance XXVI. relates to the establishment of telephone lines in any part of the Colony. By the provisions of this enactment, the Governor is empowered to enter into any contract for constructing, placing, laying down, fixing, and keeping in efficient repair any telephone line in any part of the Colony;

and to take, purchase, acquire, and hold either compulsorily or by agreement such land or any estate, right, interest, or easement therein as may be found requisite for all or any of the purposes mentioned.

Ordinance XXI., The Stock Improvement Ordinance, 1909, provides for the licensing of bulls and stallions, and the compulsory castration of animals unfit for stud purposes.

Ordinance XVII. provides for the restriction of immigration of undesirable persons.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of school boards within constituted areas. The expenses of boards are paid out of the school funds of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a fixed scale, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. There are two aided schools under these school boards, at which education is free to children within the school districts, between the ages of 6 and 14 years. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria. In connection with the Levuka Public School there is a boarding establishment where accommodation is provided for a limited number of the children of country residents. The Suva Public School has five teachers and an average attendance of 117·4. The Levuka School has two teachers and the average attendance during 1909 was 91·3. There are also three Roman Catholic schools for Europeans, with an average attendance of 90 pupils.

The education of natives throughout the Colony is conducted mainly by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,041 schools, with a total roll of 17,205 scholars; and the latter 28 boarding schools, with 11 teachers, 225 native teachers, and 1,767 scholars.

There is a boarding school for native boys established by the Government at Nasinu, with an attendance of 71 boys. This school was established early in 1907 and is under the supervision of two European masters and a native teacher. At this school instruction is carried out principally, and as far as possible, in the English language. The experiment has proved a success. In the province of Lau there is a provincial school maintained by the natives with the assistance of Government.

On the 26th January, 1909, a Commission was appointed to enquire into the existing methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of Europeans and natives in the Colony, and to advise as to the steps to be taken to bring about improvements in the same. This Commission sat very frequently throughout the year, and a mass of evidence on the subject of their equiry was taken. A report embodying the recommendations of the Commission has been submitted, but, so far, their recommendations have not been finally considered or adopted.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Government Hospital at Suva under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by a matron, 2 staff-nurses, 1 graduate nurse, and 10 pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. During 1909 there were 1,744 patients admitted to this hospital, of whom 198 were Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £1,801 19*s*. 10*d*., and the expenditure to £3,138 11*s*. 2*d*.

A branch hospital has been erected at Levuka, and is about to be opened for the admission of patients.

There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are under the charge of Government Medical Officers assisted by native medical practitioners who are trained at the Colonial Hospital at Suva. There were 3,236 cases admitted to these hospitals during 1909.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder, and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of the asylum. This institution is visited periodically by a Board of Visitors appointed for the purpose. During 1909 there were 17 admissions, 11 discharges, and 6 deaths—leaving 27 inmates on the 31st December.

On the leper station at Beqa expenditure was incurred to the amount of £747 3*s*. 7*d*. during 1909, the number of lepers at Beqa being 31 as compared with 35 for the previous year. The work of establishing a segregation station at the Island of Makogai, especially acquired by Government for the purpose, continues to progress satisfactorily, and it is hoped that the institution will be ready for occupation early in 1911.

A home for the aged and infirm at Suva is subsidised by Government to the extent of £100 per annum.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1909 was £9,602 2*s*. 6*d*.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a keeper, with a European gaoler and warders. Provincial gaols are supervised by keepers who are usually appointed to that post in conjunction with police duties. The whole of the gaols are controlled by the Inspector-General of Prisons. All prisoners sentenced, in country districts, to terms of imprisonment of three months or over, with few exceptions, are sent to Suva for incarceration in Suva Gaol. The total number of persons committed in 1909 to Suva and Levuka common gaols was 876. The equivalent of work performed by prison labour on roads and in other Government Departments during 1909, and estimated at the rate of 2*s*. per caput per diem, was £7,981 17*s*. 2*d*.

The total offences reported to the police was 6,571, or a decrease of 127 offences as compared with the previous year. Of the offences reported 871 were offences against the person; 399 larceny;

369 offences against property (other than larceny), and 4,932 other offences. This latter includes chiefly breaches of the labour laws by indentured labourers. The following shows the number of offences reported during the last four years:—

1906	7,804
1907	7,312
1908	6,700
1909	6,571

It is satisfactory to note the steady decrease of crime as shown by the above statistics, and it is accounted for by the more efficient police supervision now established throughout the Colony. There were four executions during 1909, as against 11 in 1908.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1909, as compared with the census returns of March, 1901, viz.:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1909.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	1,531	928	2,459	2,060	1,333	3,393
Half-castes	759	757	1,516	946	908	1,854
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	23,067	12,339	35,406
Polynesians	1,584	366	1,950	2,639	365	3,004
Rotumans	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,047	1,150	2,197
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,659	41,731	87,390
Others	254	213	467	344	243	587

Total population 133,831 on 31st December, 1909.
" " 120,124 " March, 1901.

13,707 *increase over period.*

A census of the Colony will be taken on 2nd April, 1911. The Fijian population at the 31st December, 1909, was estimated at 87,390, as against 87,114 at the end of the preceding year. It is most satisfactory to note a further increase, and it is hoped that slight increases shown to have taken place during the past few years may be maintained. The following table shows the increase and decrease in the native population for the past five years, viz.:—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1905	133	—
1906	32	—
1907	—	97
1908	85	—
1909	276	—

There is no sanitary drainage system in Suva or Levuka, but it is intended, with funds to be raised on loan under the Loans Ordinance, that there will shortly be put in hand the work of establishing an up-to-date and suitable system of drainage.

The total rainfall recorded at Suva during 1909 was 112·309 inches. The greatest rainfall in any one day throughout the year was 8·210 inches on the 9th November. The highest temperature in the shade was 93·4° F. on the 12th February, and the lowest 63·3° F. on the 6th October.

VIII.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters and Post-cards.	750,733	31,808	41,694	256,438	191,719	1,272,392
Newspapers ...	349,675	45,920	5,439	140,548	29,440	571,028
Books, packets, &c.	88,483	13,316	1,355	38,456	5,968	147,578
Parcels	2,754	917	139	6,570	560	6,568
Telegrams	6,568	—	—	—	—	—
	Including registered ...			Despatched. 13,678		Received. 13,118

Money orders were issued and paid as follows:—

	Issued in Colony. £	s.	d.	Paid in Colony £	s.	d.
United Kingdom	5,103	11	5	597	3	1
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	15,830	18	7	7,660	5	2
Within the Colony	6,737	19	0	6,818	9	11
Total	27,672	9	0	10,075	18	2

An annual subsidy of £2,282 4*s*. 10*d*. is paid to the Canadian Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails between Fiji and Vancouver. Interinsular services during the year under review were also subsidised to the extent of £3,500.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable. The total cost of construction was £3,370.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles), viâ Nausori on the Rewa River, Nadarivatu and Ba. The establishment of a telephone exchange and a service throughout the town of Suva is shortly to be undertaken.

The establishment of a system of wireless telegraphy for inter-insular use is still under consideration. A tender from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company for the establishment of three stations in the Colony has been accepted.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the 1st April, 1909, a Committee was appointed to consider and report on the question of all salaries of public officers and to submit proposals for the classification of all offices in the public service of the Colony. The Committee was also directed to consider the question of establishing a system of pension for widows and orphans of public officers. The report submitted by the Committee has been received, and their recommendations have been adopted to a large extent.

The immigration of East Indians to the Colony continues steadily, and these people, on their arrival in Fiji, are allotted to planters as agricultural labourers. During the year under review 1,877 Indian immigrants were introduced into the Colony and allotted to various plantations throughout the group. At the end of the year 1899 the population of the time-expired immigrants was estimated at 8,412, and on the 31st December, 1909, the East Indian population, not under indenture, was estimated at 25,000 souls. East Indians after the expiration of their terms of indenture show a decided inclination to settle in the Colony. The occupation more generally followed by them is that of farming, and statistics show that in various settlements provided by the Government for the benefit of these people the amount of money realised by the settlers has been considerable. The number of immigrants at present serving under indenture in the Colony is 12,243. The percentage of females to males of the total Indian population is 29·49 per centum. The general condition of indentured immigrants in the Colony is satisfactory and shows signs of gradual improvement. The amount remitted by East Indian immigrants to their friends in India through the Treasury in 1909 was £3,534 14*s*. as against £3,027 12*s*. during the preceding year. Owing to the success of the Government settlements for East Indians referred to above, and which are generally in sugar districts, the question of closer settlement of these people as a whole is receiving attention; and they are also encouraged, after completing their indentures, to lease small areas of native land in places other than in the settlements referred to. Throughout the Colony there are many holdings in the hands of Indians, acquired in this manner. It is, however, apparent that such settlement is not as beneficial to the people as their settlement on Government areas.

The work of the triangulation of the Island of Viti Levu is proceeding rapidly, and the reports received from time to time on the trigonometrical survey have been very satisfactory.

The greater part of the island has already been beaconed, and it is anticipated that there should be no appreciable delay in the completion of the work in the appointed time.

With a view to the extension of cane cultivation, the Government endeavoured in 1909 to obtain an option of large areas of land in the Sigatoka District, Viti Levu. The land was handed over by the native owners to the Government to be leased on their behalf and an option granted to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company over the areas in question estimated at approximately 5,000 acres. A difficulty in connection with an outlet for the produce from the district arose owing to the fact that the harbours along the coast were considered unfit for the anchorage of large vessels. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have, however, entered upon the extension of their industry in these districts, and areas of land are now being planted in cane. As an outlet for their produce they are at present engaged in laying down some 40 or 50 miles of tramline to connect with the line from their Lautoka Mill to Nadi. It is anticipated that the work will be completed in 1912, at a cost estimated at £160,000, by which date a considerable crop of cane should be ready for crushing. This extension by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company will prove a large addition to the trade of the Colony.

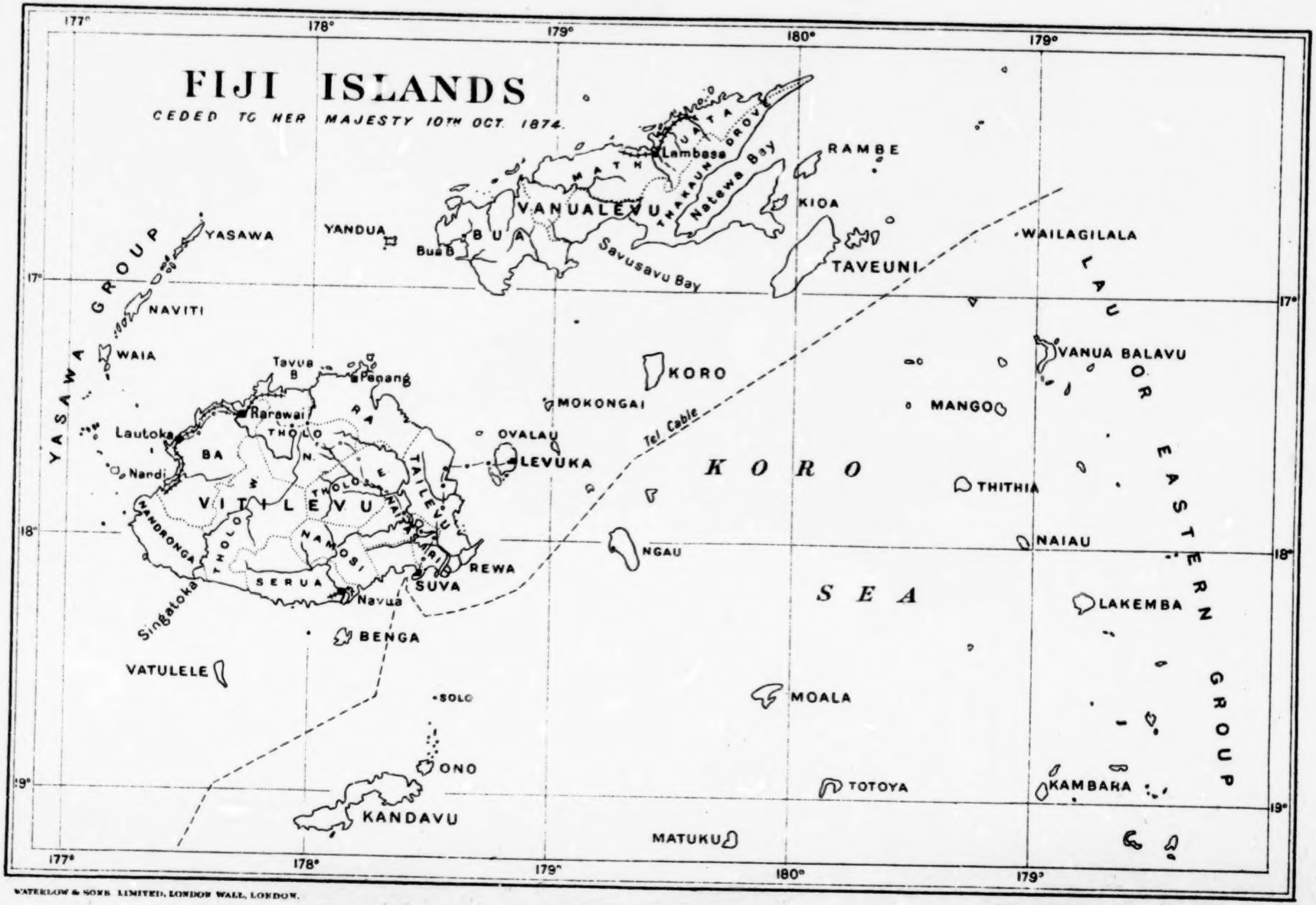
The work on the reclamation of Suva foreshore and the building of a new quay to replace the existing timber wharf has not yet been begun, but it is hoped that the work may shortly be undertaken. The increased area of town allotments thereby created, which will be the property of the Crown, will be the means of providing for a large portion of the annual interest and sinking fund for the loan required for the cost of this reclamation.

I think it safe to say, in conclusion, that the general outlook for the Colony as a whole is a bright one. The development of its resources and of its waste lands is proceeding steadily.

I have, &c.,

EYRE HUTSON,

Colonial Secretary.



FIJI ISLANDS
CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH OCT. 1874.
177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
YASAWA
NAVITI
WAIA
YANDUA
Bua B.
BUA
VANUALEVU
MATH
THAKAUNDROVE
UDA
Lambasa
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
RAMBE
KIOA
TAVEUNI
WAILAGILALA
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP
VANUA BALAVU
MANGO
THITHIA
NAIAU
LAKEMBA
KAMBARA
KORO
MOKONGAI
OVALAU
LEVUKA
Tel. Cable
KORO SEA
NGAU
MOALA
TOTOYA
MATUKU
Tavua B.
Penang
Rarawai
Lautoka
Nandi
BA
RA
THOLO N.
THOLO E.
TAILEVU
NAITASIRI
VITILEVU
NANDRONGA
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SUVA
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Singatoka
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ONO
KANDAVU

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Department of Lands, Fiji. Jany. 1910

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.

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No. 689.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 657.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1911.

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No. 689.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 657.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva, Fiji.
4th August, 1911.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue-book of the Colony for the year 1910, viz.:—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £211,952, or £34,043 more than the revenue for 1909. The principal increase was in Customs receipts (£23,195), and there were increases under every other head of revenue except Land Sales, which showed a decrease of nearly £2,000.

In October, 1910, the Customs tariff was amended, and the increase shown is due to a limited extent to that amendment. A far greater portion is, however, due to a decided improvement in trade, and it is anticipated that the figures for 1911 will show a considerable excess over those in respect of the year under review.

It is satisfactory to note that the revenue for 1910 is the highest recorded during the last five years, and is greater than the average annual revenue for those years by a sum of approximately £24,332.

Of the increase in receipts from Customs a sum equal to almost 50 per cent. is due to increased revenue at the port of Levuka, but the increase of revenue both at Suva and Lautoka has been satisfactory. The principal factors which have contributed to these figures are the enhanced price of copra, the greater buying power of the natives generally, and, as I have mentioned before, the change effected in the Customs tariff towards the close of the year. At the port of Lautoka the greater portion of the increase is due to the extension of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's operations in the Sigatoka district, in respect of which place the bulk of imports passes through the Port of Lautoka. A not inconsiderable item of the Suva imports is the revenue received from duty paid on material imported principally for the repair of damage caused by the hurricane of March, 1910.

The expenditure for the year was £236,661, as against £187,684 in 1909. The expenditure for 1910 was increased to the extent of £9,517, which represented claims in respect of 1909 and which remained unpaid when the books were closed, in accordance with the new financial system, on the 31st December, 1909. A certain portion of 1910 expenditure will, in the same manner, and for the same reason, be charged in 1911, but the amount will be small in comparison with that so charged in 1910. The excess of total expenditure over the nett receipts is shown as £24,708; but taking into consideration the amount of revenue refunded and the sum disbursed in 1910 in respect of services performed and completed in the preceding year, and on account of making good the damage to public property caused by the hurricane, the actual deficit for 1910 is £12,358. The principal increase in expenditure is under the head of Public Works Extraordinary (£11,940), and this is due in part to the cost of the work in connection with the establishment of a Leper Station on the Island of Makogai, and to the institution of a telephone system in the town of Suva.

The total revenue and expenditure during each of the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1906	185,423	19	9	149,373	14	10
1907	179,801	18	6	156,811	8	0
1908	178,015	5	8	197,798	16	1
1909	177,909	13	5	187,684	13	0
1910	211,952	5	2	236,661	0	3

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1909, was £138,467, and on the 31st December, 1910, £113,758, which, as shown above, makes the deficit for the year £24,708. An amount of £98,221 16*s*. 5*d*. is invested in stocks, and £16,775 18*s*. 8*d*. is placed on deposit at interest with the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1910, stood as follows:—

	£
Imperial Loan without interest	40,815
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	63,300
	£104,115

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. During 1910 the debt was reduced by £10,000.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales; the former has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the latter at Suva, Levuka, and Lautoka. Both these banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation on the 31st December last being £16,748.

The business of the Government Savings Bank continues to increase satisfactorily. During the year under review 174 accounts were opened, as against 130 in 1909, and there were 59 accounts closed. On the 31st December, 1910, there were 276 current accounts showing a total balance to the credit of depositors of £5,675, or an average balance of £20, as against £18 at the end of 1909. The increase of deposits at the end of 1910, as compared with the amount held on the 31st December, 1909, was £2,761, which represents an increase of almost 100 per cent. The amount earned by the Bank on investments was in excess of interest paid to depositors by an amount of £23. It was hoped that under the regulations made by the Governor in Council a branch of the Savings Bank would have been opened in Levuka in 1910. It was, however, found impossible to extend the business of the bank to Levuka during that year, but I may add that in January of this year the branch bank was opened. Steps have recently been taken to permit the transfer of deposits from the Fiji Government Savings Bank to the Savings Bank of the United Kingdom and those of British Possessions. Depositors may thus transfer moneys standing to their credit at a charge equal to the actual cost of remitting the money from Fiji to the place to which the transfer is desired. East Indians and Fijians are now beginning to avail themselves of the Savings Bank, and it is hoped that this section of the community will use the bank freely when they become more familiar with the institution.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure, during each of the last five years, of the Suva and Levuka municipalities and School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1906	2,727	3,031	1,263	1,374
1907	2,812	2,857	1,135	1,129
1908	3,147	3,091	1,102	1,554
1909	3,215	3,575	1,555	1,433
1910	5,609	4,933	2,382	1,875

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1906	1,007	842	628	646
1907	1,017	964	730	660
1908	1,235	1,031	839	915
1909	967	1,011	741	714
1910	930	859	836	786

The debt of the municipality of Suva consists of a debenture loan of £2,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. On the 31st December, 1910, the amount of the debt was £1,400. A loan of £600 was made during the year to the Suva municipality from general revenue to assist the council in meeting expenses incurred in repairing damage caused by the hurricane of March, 1910. This amount bears no interest, and is repayable to Government in instalments of £100 yearly.

The debt of the municipality of Levuka consists of a debenture loan of £500 bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and is repayable at the rate of £50 per annum. The debt stood at £200 on the 31st December last. Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance the Town Councils of Suva and Levuka benefit pecuniarily to a considerable extent, as evidenced by the increase in revenue shown in the above statement.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1909 and 1910:—

Nature of Import.	1909. £	1910. £
Bacon and hams	2,704	2,932
Bags and sugar-mats	20,059	19,498
Beer	5,278	5,351
Books	2,480	2,972
Boots and shoes	7,457	8,229
Breadstuffs and biscuits	56,713	57,638
Bran and pollard	4,257	4,652
Butter and ghee	12,142	17,693
Cement	2,727	4,293
Coal	23,762	27,822
Cordage	3,864	4,048
Cutlery	3,431	4,934
Drapery	114,178	141,818
Drugs	5,782	5,253
Fish	12,043	11,332
Furniture	4,319	5,652
Galvanised iron and goods... ...	16,848	29,342
Glassware and crockery	3,441	4,093
Hardware	41,042	45,145
Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	11,909	11,543
Jewellery	3,969	4,345
Leatherware	5,813	8,834
Live stock	12,215	54,773
Machinery	22,077	45,336
Machinery (agricultural)	5,115	8,868
Manure	6,924	6,600
Meats	18,371	25,228
Oils	21,436	21,680
Paints	3,910	4,282

Nature of Import.	1909.	1910.
	£	£
Rice	12,102	15,099
Soap	1,431	1,685
Stationery	6,477	6,360
Spirits	8,070	10,987
Sugar	4,723	5,831
Timber	32,164	42,881
Tobacco	8,407	9,976
Vegetables and green fruit ...	7,032	8,398
Wines	2,269	3,119

The items showing increases of note are butter and ghee, cement, coal, cutlery, drapery, furniture, galvanised iron and goods, leatherware, live stock, machinery, meats, rice, spirits, timber, and tobacco. The increase in the importation of machinery, live stock, and timber is, to a great extent, due to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's extension of their operations to the Sigatoka district. The greatest increase is apparent in the importation of drapery of a class used more particularly by the Fijian and East Indian races, whose financial resources are keeping pace with that of the European section of the community. The only items showing decreases are bags and sugar mats, drugs, fish, manure, stationery, and iron, bar, rod, &c.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1909 and 1910 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1909.		1910.		1909.		1910.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	126	264,919	113	256,011	122	268,255	109	246,382
Do. ...	Sailing	9	4,813	3	2,217	6	2,660	6	1,953
German ...	Steam	1	458	—	—	1	458	—	—
American ...	Sailing	3	1,548	4	2,020	3	2,053	5	2,939
Norwegian	Steam	1	714	—	—	1	714	—	—
French ...	Sailing	—	—	1	2,025	—	—	1	2,025

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coastal licences during 1910, were:—

Description.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	72	1,113
Native-owned vessels	121	823
Chinese-owned vessels	10	140
Halfcaste-owned vessels	16	183
Indian-owned vessel	1	8
	220	2,267

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1906	213,065	205,025	418,090
1907	228,121	227,108	455,229
1908	244,173	234,860	474,033
1909	272,552	274,140	546,692
1910	262,273	253,299	515,572

The following figures show the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	No.	Tons.
1906	148	213,065
1907	151	228,121
1908	134	224,173
1909	140	272,552
1910	140	262,273

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports for the past five years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1906	609,496	603,410
1907	643,007	881,364
1908	662,654	878,393
1909	636,250	947,136
1910	828,029	1,005,818

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1906	99,594
1907	107,078
1908	106,595
1909	106,357
1910	131,691

The following figures are appended as showing the increase in trade during the last few years:—

Year.	Total Trade.
	£
1907	1,524,371
1908	1,541,047
1909	1,583,386
1910	1,833,847

The total trade in respect of the year 1910 is the highest yet recorded in the history of the Colony and, notwithstanding the disastrous hurricane, exceeds that of 1909—the next highest—by an amount of £250,461 (exclusive of bullion and specie), imports being responsible for £191,779, and exports for £58,682 of that amount.

The bulk of the Colony's trade continues to be with the Australian Colonies and New Zealand. Other countries with which there is considerable trade are India, Canada, and the United States of America. The ratio of trade with the respective countries to the total trade of the Colony is shown in the following table:—

Country.	Percentage of Total Trade. Per Cent.
United Kingdom	7·41
British Possessions:—	
New South Wales	42·89
New Zealand	33·75
Victoria	1·52
South Australia	·04
Western Australia	—
Queensland	·08
Tasmania	·02
India	2·08
Canada	4·99
Hong Kong	·22
Other British Colonies	·14
Foreign countries:—	
United States of America	4·71
Japan	·46
France	·05
China	·19
Germany	1·30
Norway	·02
Sweden	·01
Belgium	·06
Portugal	·01
Other foreign countries	·05

Summarised, the totals are as follows:—

United Kingdom	7·41
British Possessions	85·73
Foreign countries	6·86
	100·000

The staple products of the Colony remain the same; the quantity and value of these exports during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1906... ...	38,523	347,198	9,772	143,683	97,678
1907... ...	66,597	602,820	11,290	182,788	79,891
1908... ...	66,149	647,306	12,931	154,488	62,217
1909... ...	60,825	607,969	15,880	226,599	98,491
1910... ...	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841	47,302

It will be seen that, so far as values are concerned, the year in regard to the export trade was an exceptionally good one, and it is to be regretted that the green fruit trade was retarded to the extent shown above by the effects of the hurricane. This industry, however, was revived considerably, and the figures of this year are anticipated to exceed those of 1909, which are the highest recorded. To cope with this revival greater facilities have recently been afforded planters for the export of their produce to the Melbourne market, and a subsidy has been granted to an additional steamer provided with cool storage accommodation to carry the fruit to that port. During the year the price of copra was considerably higher than that prevailing throughout the previous year, and the income of the natives for the period was greater than it has been for a number of years. I cannot, however, predict such good results from this trade in respect of this year, as it is feared that the plantations have suffered damage which, if in the first instance not so considerable, is more lasting than that affecting the green fruit trade.

The following statement shows the quantity of bananas exported during each of the past five years:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1906	604,617	191,640
1907	462,139	192,591
1908	356,180	145,110
1909	585,713	188,577
1910	271,024	81,225

The total area of land under sugar-cane cultivation on the 31st December, 1910, was estimated at 49,828 acres, from which were produced 547,399 tons of sugar-cane.

The area under coconuts, or cultivated by Europeans and exclusive of native plantations, is estimated at 30,741 acres.

The estimated cultivated area under bananas and pineapples on the 31st December last was 4,742 acres. This does not include native plantations, from which the bulk of the fruit is derived.

After deducting the three principal items of export from the value of the total exports of the Colony, the value of the minor products exported during each of the last five years amounted to:—

Year.	£
1906	9,799
1907	12,157
1908	13,321
1909	13,752
1910	30,171

The principal minor exports were "sici," or trocas shell (£12,331), molasses (£11,240), turtle shell (£1,596), and hides and pelts (£1,498).

It will be noticed that the principal minor export in 1910 was "sici," (trocas) shell, which is placed on the list for the first time. This shell is found on the reefs surrounding the greater part of the Colony. It is exported for use principally in France and Japan, where it is used in the manufacture of buttons. For some months the local price per ton offered for the shell was very high, but the large quantity exported has apparently had the effect of lowering the market price considerably. The shell is abundant, and is now an additional easy source of income to the natives living on the coasts of the islands, who gather and sell it to European merchants in the Colony. It is gratifying to note that the total value of molasses exported has increased almost 100 per cent., and that hides and pelts continue to hold their place as one of the principal minor exports.

In the Blue-book report for 1909 reference was made to slight prospects of the establishment of a mining industry. During 1910 there was little evidence to show that anything further had been done by prospectors and others to prove the value of the mining resources of the Colony. There is every indication that prospecting operations have, for the present at least, been abandoned.

The manufacture of bricks has been undertaken recently by a firm in Suva. The bricks manufactured by this firm are said to be of good quality, and a large quantity has recently been ordered by the Government for the construction of the new gaol at Suva. The manufacture of bricks locally will, it is hoped, tend to improve the class of buildings in Suva.

Land Grants.

The following is a statement of land alienations which shows approximately the position in regard to land, as it stood on the 31st December, 1910, viz.:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants.	
Area held by Crown on Crown Grant	9,865
Area held by settlers on Crown Grant	418,118
Total area held on Crown Grant	427,983
Native Grants.	
Area held by Crown on Native Grant	48,831
Area held by settlers on Native Grant	37,570
Total area held on Native Grant	86,401
Native Leaseholds.	
Area held by Indians on Native leasehold	19,420
Area held by Europeans on Native leasehold ...	102,390
Total area of native leaseholds held by settlers	121,810
Crown Leaseholds.	
Area held by Indians on Crown leasehold	3,411
Area held by Europeans on Crown leasehold ...	20,045
Total area of Crown leaseholds held by settlers	23,456

It will thus be seen that the alienated lands of the Colony are as follows:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants ...	427,983
Native Grants ...	86,401
Total freehold area	514,384
Add Native leasehold area	121,810
Add Crown leasehold area	23,456
Total alienated area	659,650

With regard to the area of 150,000 acres mentioned in last year's report as having been handed over to the Government by the natives as open for settlement by lease, an area of approximately 18,000 has been leased. Some difficulty, however, is being experienced in the disposition of the remaining areas. In certain instances its inaccessibility and distance from Suva have tended to delay settlement thereon.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

The immigration of East Indians to the Colony continues steadily. During 1910 there were introduced into the Colony 3,879 Indian immigrants. The total population of Indians in the Colony on the 31st December last was estimated at 39,287 souls. The number of East Indians serving under indenture on the 31st December last was 12,757 (male adults 8,174, female adults 2,787, children 1,796), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 26,557. The proportion of females to males of the Indian population is as follows:—

Adult females	41·61 to 100 males.
Non-adult females	93·14 to 100 males.

The number of charges laid in each of the past four years for breaches of labour laws is as follows:—

1907	2,291
1908	2,237
1909	1,924
1910	1,911

During 1910 the recruiting and introduction of so-called Polynesian immigrants was prohibited. Polynesian immigrants have hitherto been employed by many planters throughout the group, especially in the heavy work of clearing land, and their loss is much felt. Owing to this prohibition a larger number of East Indians will be required by the owners of plantations where Polynesians were employed.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these the most important were:—

Ordinance No. IV., which provides for the raising of a loan of one hundred thousand pounds and for any further sum necessary to defray the cost of the issue of that loan. The moneys to be derived by loan under this Ordinance will be disbursed in the cost of a reclamation of the Suva Harbour, and of harbour works at Suva, and of works for the general sanitation of the town of Suva.

Ordinance XIV. (the Legitimation Ordinance, 1910).—This Ordinance provides for the legitimation of children, born before marriage, on the subsequent marriage of their parents. Children affected by the provisions of this Ordinance are entitled to all the rights of a child born in wedlock, but the Ordinance has not the effect of legitimating any child if at the time of its birth there existed any legal impediment to the intermarriage of the parents.

Ordinance XVII. regulates the sale and use of poisons.

Ordinance XIII. of 1910 amends the regulations providing for the registration of voters and the conduct of elections of certain members of the Legislative Council of the Colony.

Ordinance XXVI.—This Ordinance amends the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909, and gives the Governor power in certain cases to dissolve a Municipal Council.

V.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890 provides for the election of School Boards within constituted areas. The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the school funds of each district consisting of (1) an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a fixed scale, and (2) a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. There are two aided schools under these School Boards at which education is free to children living within the school districts between the ages of six and fourteen years. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria. The children of people living in country districts are provided for by a boarding establishment attached to the Levuka school, where there is accommodation for a limited number. The Suva Public School has five teachers with an average attendance of 112·6. The Levuka School has two teachers and an average attendance, during 1910, of 107·6. The Roman Catholic Mission provides three schools for the education of European children. The total number of European children attending these schools in 1910 was 148. The education of natives is conducted mainly by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,042 schools with a total attendance of 16,868. These figures include six minor schools set apart for the Indian community. The Roman Catholic Mission have 130 schools, and in 1910 2,178 native children were on their school

rolls. The Government Native School at Nasinu is under the charge of two European masters. It is entirely a boarding school, and there were 62 pupils during the year. Beyond these schools there are several provincial schools maintained by the natives themselves with, in one instance, monetary assistance from Government. The general question of education within the Colony was the subject of a Commission which sat throughout the year 1909. The question as to steps to be taken to improve the educational facilities of the Colony is still under consideration.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, and the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the charge of a Resident Medical Officer, assisted by a matron, two staff nurses, one graduate nurse, and six pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. Admissions during 1910 amounted to 1,882, of whom 202 were Europeans. The revenue for the year was £2,133, and the expenditure £4,114.

A branch hospital has been erected at Levuka, and is under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a matron. This institution provides for the treatment of Europeans as well as natives living in the district.

There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers. The number of admissions to these provincial hospitals during 1910 was 3,640.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder, and the Chief Medical Officer is the Superintendent of the asylum. The asylum is visited by the Board of Visitors appointed for the purpose. During 1910 there were 18 admissions and 21 discharges, leaving 24 inmates at the close of the year.

On the leper station at Beqa expenditure was incurred to the amount of £420 3*s*. 8*d*. during 1910. The number of lepers on the 31st December was 35, as against 31 for the previous year. The Makogai leper station is not yet open for the segregation of lepers, but it is expected that the transfer of all lepers throughout the group to that island will shortly be effected.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1910 was £10,239 12*s*. 7*d*.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a keeper, with European overseers and native warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers who are usually the European police officers stationed in the respective districts. The gaols of the Colony are controlled by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The total number of persons committed in 1910 to Suva and Levuka common gaols was 857, as against 876 for the previous year.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 6,146, or a decrease of 425 as compared with the year 1909. Of these reported offences 827 were offences against the person, 369 larceny, 281 offences against property (other than larceny), and the greater portion of the balance were offences against labour laws by indentured labourers.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last five years:—

1906	7,804
1907	7,312
1908	6,700
1909	6,571
1910	6,146

The steady decrease of crime, as evidenced by the above figures, is satisfactory, and it may be useful to note here that while crime generally has decreased so has the number of offences against immigration labour laws recently shown a slight decrease, notwithstanding the fact that the immigration population has increased to a considerable extent. There were eight executions in 1910, as against four in the previous year.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at 31st December, 1910, as compared with the census returns of March, 1901, viz.:—

Class.	Census of 31st March, 1901.			Estimate on 31st December, 1910.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	1,531	928	2,459	2,059	1,343	3,402
Half-castes	759	757	1,516	951	899	1,850
Indians	11,353	5,752	17,105	25,604	13,683	39,287
Polynesians	1,584	366	1,950	2,541	359	2,900
Rotumans	1,036	1,194	2,230	1,047	1,130	2,197
Fijians	50,357	44,040	94,397	45,587	41,873	87,460
Others	254	213	467	281	211	492

Total population 137,588 on 31st December, 1910.
" " 120,124 " March, 1901.

17,464 *increase.*

Another slight increase in the Fijian population is again shown; the estimated number of Fijians alive on the 31st December, 1910, being 70 in excess of the estimated population at the end of the preceding year. From the following table it will be seen that for the last six years only one year—namely, 1907—shows a decrease:—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1905	133	—
1906	32	—
1907	—	97
1908	85	—
1909	276	—
1910	70	—
	596	
	97	
Increase over last 6 years	499	

IX.—SANITATION.

The establishment of a proper drainage system in Suva and Levuka has not yet been begun. During the year, however, the services of an expert were obtained from England to report and advise on the whole question of drainage. That gentleman visited the Colony and has now returned to England. After the receipt of his report the work will be put in hand and carried out with the least possible delay. The initial cost of this work will be defrayed from funds to be raised by loan.

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1910 show the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year 107·812 inches. For the previous year the rainfall recorded was 112·309. The greatest rainfall in any one day throughout the year was 8·331 inches on the 21st October. The highest temperature in the shade was 96·0 Fahr. on the 12th February, and the lowest 61·0 Fahr. on the 7th July.

XI.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

A subsidy of £2,282 was paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails from and to Fiji.

Interinsular services were subsidised during 1910 to the extent of £4,064. Local subsidies have increased by an amount of £533, which is the added cost of the better inter-island communication which now exists.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles—of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka (a distance of 125 miles), viâ Nausori, on the Rewa River, Nadarivatu, and Ba. Towards the end of the year under review the work of establishing a telephone system in Suva was commenced. This work is now completed. The system of wireless telegraphy referred to in the last Blue-book report was commenced towards the end of 1910. Two stations have been erected—one at Suva and the second at Taviuni.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the 24th and 25th March, 1910, the Colony was visited by a hurricane of somewhat extraordinary force. The damage done to buildings and to plantations was very considerable, and particularly did the banana and cane planters suffer. In some instances banana plantations were entirely destroyed, as were many acres of sugar-cane, the latter being affected more particularly by floods in the low-lying country where cane is principally grown. As a result of the hurricane the banana industry was almost entirely suspended for some months, but towards the end of the year the industry had so far revived that the export of fruit was vigorously renewed, and the shipments to Australia and New Zealand were as great as, and in some cases actually exceeded, the quantity conveyed by steamers to those places prior to the date on which the hurricane occurred. Damage to coconut plantations was also considerable, but as regards the coconuts the damage sustained is not so immediately apparent as in the case of other products, although perhaps it is more lasting. The output of copra for the year does not show any appreciable decrease in that class of trade. It is interesting to note that while there was much destruction to nearly all varieties of planting, the few rubber plantations throughout the islands were practically unaffected by the wind, notwithstanding the fact that one rubber plantation is situated in the district in which the destruction by wind and flood was greatest.

The alienation by lease of native land continues steadily. During 1910 18,360 acres of land were leased by the native owners to settlers.

The vast majority of these leases are in respect of small areas taken up throughout the Colony by East Indians who have completed their term of indenture. With a few exceptions these leases were given in respect of periods ranging from five to ten years; the number of existing leases granted to East Indians for periods of ten years shows that period to be the most popular one.

The operations of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in the Sigatoka district were carried on throughout the year, and many acres of land were ploughed and planted. It was the intention of the company to have completed the tramway from Nadi to Sigatoka early in 1912.

The work of construction has been pushed on, but difficulty has been experienced in the matter of obtaining the necessary labour, and it is anticipated that the operations will not be completed until 1913, when the cane fields which are now being planted will add considerably to the Colony's output of sugar.

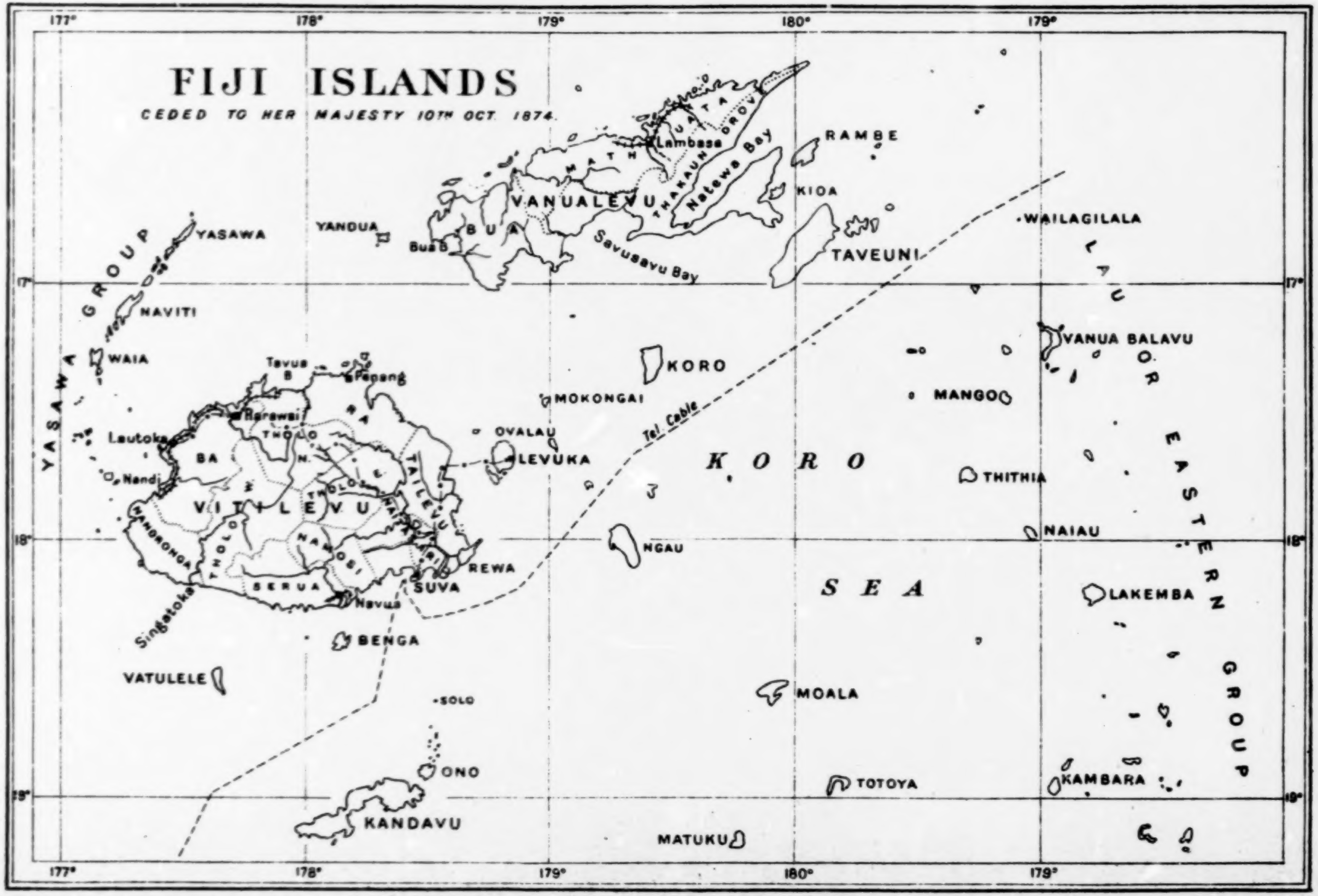
The trigonometrical survey of Viti Levu has made very good progress, and it is expected that the end of the current year will see the completion of the field work. When the survey is complete the Lands Department will be in a position to satisfactorily compile the surveys done in the past and to connect to these all future surveys. At the present time, owing to the fact that the law until recently permitted the registration of leases of areas up to 10 acres without survey, there is probably some confusion as to boundaries which the survey will settle.

During the year Sir Everard im Thurn proceeded on leave to England and retired from the public service. Sir Charles Major administered the Government until my arrival at the end of February.

I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Vernon Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.



FIJI ISLANDS

CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH OCT. 1874.

177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
YASAWA
NAVITI
WAIA
YANDUA
Bua B
BUA
VANUALEVU
MATHUATA
Lambasa
THAKAUNDROVI
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
RAMBE
KIOA
TAVEUNI
WAILAGILALA
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP
VANUA BALAVU
MANGO
THITHIA
NAIAU
LAKEMBA
KAMBARA
KORO
MOKONGAI
OVALAU
LEVUKA
Tel. Cable
KORO SEA
NGAU
MOALA
TOTOYA
MATUKU
Tavua B
Penang
RA
Rarawai
THOLO
Lautoka
BA
Nandi
VITI LEVU
NAITASIRI
TAILEVU
NAMOSI
NANDRONGA
Singatoka
SERUA
Navua
SUVA
REWA
BENGA
VATULELE
SOLO
ONO
KANDAVU

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Department of Lands, Fiji. Jany. 1810

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
654	Gold Coast	1909
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	1909
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.

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1911.

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No. 727.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 689.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1912.

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No. 727.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 689.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva, Fiji.
2nd July, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1911, viz.—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £240,395, or £28,442 greater than the revenue for 1910, and £33,098 in excess of the original estimate of the year's receipts. The principal increase was in Customs receipts (£18,473), compared with actual receipts for 1910. With the exception of native taxes and land sales there were increases under every other head of revenue.

The revenue derived from land sales decreased from £3,584 to £136. This is due to the unusual number of land sales in 1910, and to the fact that Crown Land is no longer subject to absolute alienation by granting freehold titles. Other increases of note are licences, &c. (£2,040), and fees, &c. (£5,108).

The revision during the year of Customs duties, imposing generally an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. in place of 12½ per cent., is accountable in a measure for the increased Customs revenue, but the greater part of that increase was due to continued increase in trade: the total value of trade for the year exceeded by more than a quarter of a million pounds sterling the total greatest value previously recorded. The revenue received for the year is greater than that received in respect of any previous year, and is greater than the average annual revenue received during the five previous years by a sum of approximately £53,775.

The expenditure for 1911 was originally estimated at £236,902. Towards the end of the year it was revised at £271,515. The actual expenditure for the year amounted to £265,347, being £28,445 in excess of the original estimate, £6,168 below the revised estimate, and in excess of the expenditure for 1910 by an amount of £28,686. The deficit for the year 1911 thus amounted to £24,953, against £29,605 and £30,203 respectively when the original and revised Estimates were framed. The principal increase in expenditure was under the head of Public Works Extraordinary the estimate for which was exceeded by £14,652. During the year the Makogai Leper Station was completed at a cost of £8,209. It was anticipated that claims for some £6,200 would have been received and paid before the beginning of the financial year. The work on the station was, however, not completed until early in 1911, when it was necessary to exceed the estimated expenditure. As indicated in the Blue Book Report for 1910, expenditure was increased to some extent by reason of sums charged in 1911 in respect of claims remaining unpaid at the end of 1910. The excess of total expenditure over the nett receipts is shown as £24,953, as against £24,708 for the previous year. Expenditure under the head of lands exceeded the estimate by a sum of £5,246, and was greater than the expenditure for 1910 by £5,353. The increase is due to the purchase of a block of native land in the island of Taviuni. During the year the sum disbursed on the purchase of land was £4,035, being £3,785 in excess of the estimate.

The total revenue and expenditure for the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1907	179,801	18	6	156,811	8	0
1908	178,015	5	8	197,798	16	1
1909	177,909	13	5	187,684	13	0
1910	211,952	5	2	236,661	0	3
1911	240,394	14	9	265,347	8	8

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1910, was £113,759. It was originally estimated that this would be reduced on the 31st December, 1911, to £84,154. The actual excess of assets at the close of the year, however, amounted to £88,806 2*s.* 8*d.*, which, as shown above, makes the deficit for the year £24,952 13*s.* 11*d.*

The nominal amount of stock held by Government was £101,597 15*s.* 7*d.*; the original cost was £102,445 11*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of stock on the 31st December, 1911, was £95,326 15*s.* 9*d.*

The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911, stood as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial Loan without interest	35,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	57,700	0	0
	£93,515	1	3

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is applied to the redemption of debentures, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt.

The amount of loans outstanding on the 31st December, 1910, was £104 115 1*s*. 3*d*. This was reduced during the year by a sum of £10,600, as against £10,000 paid off in 1910. As the sinking fund is only £1,500 (as indicated above) the figures show that the amount not required in 1911 to pay interest on debentures (which had been redeemed) amounted to £3,940 11*s*. 9*d*., or more than double the amount of the ordinary sinking fund provided. The existing debt of the Colony at the present rate of payment will be extinguished in the year 1919. The amount in the sinking fund on the 31st December, 1910, was £200, and on the 31st December, 1911, £40 10*s*. 9*d*.—the difference (£159 11*s*. 3*d*.) was utilized to pay off debentures.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is British sterling. There is no Government note issue. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales; the former has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the latter at Suva, Levuka, and Lautoka. Both these banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation on the 31st December last being £7,441. The note issue is not recognised officially.

The business of the Government Savings Bank continues to increase satisfactorily. During the year 265 accounts were opened, as against 174, and 118 were closed, as against 59 in 1910. At the end of 1911, 323 accounts remained open, and an amount of £8,187 10*s*. 7*d*. stood to the credit of depositors, showing an average of £25 7*s*. to each depositor, as compared with £20 11*s*. 3*d*. in 1910. The increase in the total amount deposited in 1911 was £2,508 3*s*. 10*d*., which represented an increase of 50 per cent. over 1910, and an increase of 150 per cent. over 1909.

Interest earned on investments amounted to £242 14*s*. 1*d*. Interest paid or credited to depositors was £162 9*s*. 1*d*. Incidental expenses amounted to £9 7*s*. 6*d*. The profit for the year was, therefore, £70 17*s*. 6*d*., but no charge is made for expenses of management, which is in the hands of civil servants who perform savings bank work as part of their duties without special remuneration.

At Levuka, 49 accounts were opened and six closed. Deposits there amounted to £556 16*s*. 6*d*. and withdrawals to £160 12*s*. 2*d*. The average amount standing to each depositor's credit at the end of 1911 was £11 7*s*. 3*d*. These figures are included in those referred to above.

The number of Indian depositors has largely increased, but Fijian depositors are few in number—no doubt because there are no country branches.

The bank's funds are invested in England to the extent of £2,000 in Transvaal 3 per cent. guaranteed stock. £5,000 was remitted last year for investment, but it is not yet known what stock was purchased, and the balance is held on current account.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities and School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1907	2,812	2,857	1,135	1,129
1908	3,147	3,091	1,102	1,554
1909	3,215	3,575	1,555	1,433
1910	5,609	4,933	2,382	1,875
1911	5,772	7,081	2,068	2,266

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1907	1,017	964	730	660
1908	1,235	1,031	839	915
1909	967	1,011	741	714
1910	930	859	836	786
1911	1,354	1,275	683	882

The debt of the municipality of Suva consists of a debenture loan of £2,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent. and repayable at the rate of £100 per annum. On the 31st December, 1911, the amount of the debt was £1,300. A loan of £600 was made during the year 1910 to the Suva municipality from general revenue to assist the council in meeting expenses incurred in repairing damage caused by the hurricane of March, 1910. This amount bears no interest, and is repayable to Government in instalments of £100 yearly.

The debt of the municipality of Levuka consists of a debenture loan of £500 bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and is repayable at the rate of £50 per annum. The debt stood at £150 on the 31st December last.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1910 and 1911:—

Nature of Import.	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	2,932	3,312
Bags and sugar-mats	19,498	25,968
Beer	5,341	6,219
Books	2,972	2,157

Nature of Import.	1910.	1911.
	£	£
Boots and shoes	8,229	9,884
Breadstuffs and biscuits	57,638	60,443
Bran, flour, and sharps	4,652	6,985
Butter and ghee	—	17,631
Cement	4,293	7,678
Coal	27,822	28,684
Cordage	4,048	4,210
Cutlery	4,934	5,750
Drapery	141,818	146,425
Drugs	5,253	6,610
Fish	11,332	12,214
Furniture	5,652	6,567
Galvanised iron and goods	29,342	22,237
Glassware and crockery	4,093	4,864
Hardware	45,145	56,601
Iron, bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes	11,543	23,422
Jewellery	4,345	4,479
Leatherware	8,834	7,670
Live stock	54,773	14,681
Machinery	45,336	38,728
Machinery—agricultural	8,868	10,595
Manure	6,600	7,221
Meats	25,228	22,489
Oils	21,680	26,841
Paints	4,282	5,508
Rice	15,099	16,945
Soap	1,685	1,611
Spirits	10,987	11,866
Stationery	6,360	7,459
Sugar	5,831	5,015
Timber	42,881	47,535
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes)	9,976	10,663
Vegetables and fruit	8,398	8,706
Wines	3,119	2,871
Cigars and cigarettes	2,563	2,906

An improved method of classification of imports was adopted in 1911. As a result of this improvement comparisons of the quantities and value of goods imported in the last two years may not be accurate. In the above list of imports the value of articles imported free of duty by the Government and by the Pacific Cable Board respectively are included in 1911, while they were excluded in 1910.

The items showing increases of note are breadstuffs and biscuits, bags and sugar-mats, cement, drapery, hardware, iron, agricultural machinery, oils, and timber. The principal decrease is shown under the head of live stock. The high value of stock imported during 1910 was due to importation of mules by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in connection with the extension of the sugar industry. The continued increase in imports is due to the fact that the Colony's industries continue to progress steadily.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1910 and 1911 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1910.		1911.		1910.		1911.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	113	256,011	140	290,167	109	246,382	134	285,031
" ...	Sailing	3	2,217	3	1,345	6	1,953	2	1,188
German ...	Steam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American ...	Sailing	4	2,020	6	2,942	5	2,939	4	2,216
Norwegian	Sailing	—	—	1	1,023	—	—	1	1,023
French ...	Sailing	1	2,025	—	—	1	2,025	—	—

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences during 1911 were:—

	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	87	1,495
Native-owned vessels	136	894
Chinese-owned vessels	9	139
Halfcaste-owned vessels	31	278
Indian-owned vessels	3	11
Polynesian-owned vessels	1	4
	267	2,821

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1907	228,121	227,108	455,229
1908	244,173	234,860	474,033
1909	272,552	274,140	546,692
1910	262,273	253,299	515,572
1911	295,477	289,458	584,935

The following figures show the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Colony during the past five years.

Year.	No.	Tons.
1907	151	228,121
1908	134	224,173
1909	140	272,552
1910	140	262,273
1911	151	295,477

The total imports and exports for the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1907	643,007	881,364
1908	662,654	878,393
1909	636,250	947,136
1910	829,029	1,005,818
1911	854,193	1,275,235

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied. £
1907	107,078
1908	106,595
1909	106,357
1910	131,691
1911	150,165

The following figures are appended as showing the increase in trade during the last few years:—

Year.	Total Trade. £
1907	1,524,371
1908	1,541,047
1909	1,583,386
1910	1,833,847
1911	2,129,428

The bulk of the Colony's trade continues to be conducted through Australia and New Zealand. The total trade of the Colony during the year 1911 was distributed amongst the various countries as follows:—

Country.	Total. £	Percentage of Total Trade.
United Kingdom	164,636	7·4
British Possessions:—		
New South Wales	1,179,757	52·8
New Zealand	620,940	27·8
Victoria	59,819	2·7
Queensland	2,244	0·1
India	40,777	1·8
Canada	55,102	2·5
Hong Kong	11,231	0·5
Other British Possessions	4,321	0·2
Total British Possessions	£1,974,191	88·4

Country.	Total.	Percentage of Total Trade.
	£	
Foreign countries:—		
United States of America ...	41,380	1·9
Japan	7,431	0·3
France	535	—
China	1,693	0·1
Germany	27,587	1·2
Wallis Island	8,029	0·4
Belgium	1,296	0·1
Samoa	2,338	0·1
Futuna	2,963	0·1
Other foreign countries ...	1,206	—
Total foreign countries ...	£94,458	4·2
Totals:—		
United Kingdom	164,636	7·4
British Possessions	1,974,191	88·4
Foreign countries	94,458	4·2
Total trade	£2,233,285	100·00

The total trade with the United Kingdom and British Possessions increased from £1,747,283 in 1910 to £2,138,827 in 1911, while that with foreign countries fell from £128,655 to £94,457. The State of New South Wales constitutes the principal market for the Colony's trade. In 1910 there was sent to the Colony from New South Wales goods to the value of £434,404, while the value of exports sent to New South Wales was £370,182. In 1911 the figures increased to £500,265 and £679,492 respectively. The value of imports from the United Kingdom rose from £139,045 in 1910 to £164,636—an improvement due probably to the cheaper rate of freights now obtainable from England to the Colony *viâ* Calcutta.

The staple products of the Colony remain the same; the quantity and value of these exports during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1907... ...	66,597	602,820	11,290	182,788	79,891
1908... ...	66,149	647,306	12,931	154,488	62,217
1909... ...	60,825	607,969	15,880	226,599	98,491
1910... ...	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841	47,302
1911... ...	72,834	797,274	16,337	294,245	151,668

The general increase both in quantities and values is gratifying, and it is satisfactory to note that the anticipated ill-effects of the 1910 hurricane were not realised; while, however, the output was considerably less, the value of the year's produce was £32,242 greater than that exported during 1910. An extraordinary increase in the quantity of green fruit exported is noticeable, and it is due to the fact that during the year the banana industry was not affected by any serious cyclonic disturbance. During the year green fruit of the total value of £151,668 was exported, of which £33,145 was shipped to the Melbourne market by means of the greater facilities in transport provided during the year. The revenue derived from the imposition of the Banana Subsidy and Inspection Tax, levied under Ordinance XII. of 1911, amounted to £1,397 12*s*. 11*d*., against which the cost of inspection and subsidies on account of the banana trade amounted to £6,133 10*s*. 10*d*.

The following statement shows the quantity of bananas exported during each of the last five years:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1907	462,139	192,591
1908	356,180	145,110
1909	585,713	188,577
1910	271,024	81,225
1911	897,345	219,551

The total area of land under sugar-cane cultivation on the 31st December, 1911, was estimated at 43,358 acres, from which were produced 488,534 tons of sugar-cane. The area under cocoanuts, or cultivated by Europeans and exclusive of native plantations, was estimated at 37,562 acres. The estimated cultivated area under bananas and pineapples on the 31st December last was 4,692 and 230 acres respectively. These figures do not include native plantations as to which details are not available. It is from native plantations that the greater part of the green fruit exported is produced. Fruit so grown is sold under contract to European buyers, who ship the produce to the respective markets. Previous to the year under review the cultivation of bananas for export was confined principally to the Rewa Valley and to the Sigatoka District, from which the produce can be easily transported to meet ocean steamers sailing from Suva and from Momi, a port of call adjacent to the Sigatoka River. During 1911 a steamer of the Union Steamship Company made periodical visits to Savu Savu Bay District on the southern side of the island of Vanua Levu. This extension of the Union Steamship Company's itinerary contributed to the increased export of bananas. It is hoped that greater facilities for transport and conveyance of fruit to the port of Suva may be provided in the near future, and that the cultivation of fruit will increase considerably. This result will follow if planters are guaranteed that vessels suitably equipped for the carriage of fruit will be provided, and that the service will be continued for a definite period.

After deducting the three principal items of export from the value of the total exports of the Colony, the value of the minor products exported during each of the last five years amounted to:—

Year.	£
1907	12,157
1908	13,321
1909	13,752
1910	30,171
1911	32,048

The principal minor exports were trocas shell (£14,252), molasses (£9,821), turtle shell (£1,934), and hides and pelts (£1,539). While the value of turtle shell fell from £2,381 in 1909 to £1,596 in 1910, an increase is again apparent in 1911. The principal minor export in 1911, as in 1910, was trocas shell, locally known as "sici." The total value of minor exports has increased, as shown above, from £29,437 in 1910 to £31,595 in 1911. The continued increase indicates that more attention might, with advantage, be given to the cultivation of products other than sugar, fruit, and copra. Some considerable area of land is now being leased to planters for the cultivation of sisal hemp. It is anticipated that the production of this fibre will become an important industry in some districts of the Colony. Land in considerable areas unsuited to the cultivation of either of the staple products is available for settlement, and may be utilised in the cultivation of sisal hemp. The quantity of molasses exported during the year was 9,821 tons, as against 8,900 tons in 1910. The value, however, placed on the quantity exported is shown to be £1,419 less than that for the previous year.

LAND GRANTS.

The following is a statement of land alienations, which shows approximately the position in regard to land as it stood on the 31st December, 1911, as compared to the position at the end of 1910:—

	Acres.	
	1910.	1911.
Crown Grants:—		
Area held by Crown on Crown Grant ...	9,865	9,865
Area held by settlers on Crown Grant ...	418,118	418,134
Total area held on Crown Grant ...	427,983	427,999
Native Grants:—		
Area held by Crown on Native Grant ...	48,831	50,878
Area held by settlers on Native Grant ...	37,576	37,812
Total area held on Native Grant ...	86,401	88,690
Native Leaseholds:—		
Area held by Indians on Native leasehold	19,420	21,781
Area held by Europeans on Native leasehold	102,390	120,765
Total area of Native leaseholds held by settlers	121,810	142,546
Crown Leaseholds:—		
Area held by Indians on Crown leasehold ...	3,411	3,850
Area held by Europeans on Crown leasehold	20,045	36,280
Total area of Crown leaseholds held by settlers	23,456	40,130

It will thus be seen that the alienated lands of the Colony are as follows:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants	427,999
Native Grants	88,690
Total freehold area	516,689
Add Native leasehold area	142,546
Add Crown leasehold area	40,130
Total alienated area	699,365

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1911 there were introduced into the Colony 4,216 Indian immigrants, as against 3,879 during the previous year. The total population of East Indians in the Colony—based upon returns and not on the Census of April last—was 43,103. The number of East Indians serving under indenture on the 31st December last was 14,462 (male adults 9,374, female adults 3,152, children 1,936), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 28,641. The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was:—

Adult females	41·37 to 100 males.
Non-adult females	93·42 to 100 males.

The number of charges laid in each of the past five years for breaches of labour laws is as follows:—

1907	2,291
1908	2,237
1909	1,924
1910	1,911
1911	1,520

The decrease indicated in the number of charges laid is satisfactory, and it may be said to be due in part to more effective distribution of labour and to the rigid inspections carried out by the Department of Immigration.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these the most important were:—

Ordinance No. XIII. (the Buildings Tax Ordinance), which provides for the imposition of a tax of 10*s*. on every hut, and on other buildings the annual value of which exceeds £10 of a tax not exceeding 2*s*. in the pound. The actual rate is determinable by the Governor in Council. This Ordinance does not apply to any house, building, or hut belonging to a native Fijian which forms part of a Fijian town or village or to any hut or building within the boundaries of a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909.

Ordinance No. XXVI. (the Customs Duties Ordinance) recasts the tariff and provides generally for *ad valorem* duties at the rate of 15 per cent. where previously they had been 12½ per cent.

Ordinance No. XVII. (the Liquor Ordinance, 1911) renders more easy the prosecution of offences coming within the scope of previous enactments. It consolidates the law and extends the restriction, previously existing, of the sale of spirituous liquors.

Ordinance No. XIX. (the Leper Ordinance) consolidates and amends the law relating to lepers. It provides machinery for the removal to and detention of lepers at leper asylums.

Ordinance No. XXVIII. (Public Health Ordinance) consolidates and amends the law relating to public health. It provides for the constitution of a Central Board of Health and Local Authorities and divides the Colony into urban, suburban, and rural sanitary districts, which are subject to the jurisdiction of respective local authorities. It regulates the building of dwelling houses and prohibits their erection on areas unfitted for the purpose.

Ordinance No. IV. relates to burial and cremation. It provides for the general management, regulation, and control of burial grounds and crematoria whether public or private.

V.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted areas. The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the school funds of each district, consisting of (1) an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a fixed scale, and (2) a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. During the year a special grant of £300 was allowed the Suva Public School for building purposes. There are two aided schools under these School Boards at which education is free to children living within the school districts, between the ages of six and fourteen years. These schools are inspected annually by an inspector from the Education Department of Victoria. The children of people living in country districts are provided for by a boarding establishment attached to the Levuka School, where there is accommodation for a limited number. The Suva Public School has five teachers, with an average attendance of 137·2. The Levuka School has two teachers and an average attendance, during 1911, of 142·7. The Roman Catholic Mission provides three schools for the education of European children. The total number of European children attending these schools in 1911 was 159. The education of natives is conducted mainly by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic

Missions. The former have 1,002 schools with a total attendance of 16,525. These figures include six minor schools set apart for the Indian community. The Roman Catholic Mission have 124 schools, and in 1911 2,293 native children were on their school rolls. The Government Native School at Nasinu is under the charge of two European masters. It is entirely a boarding school, and there were 65 pupils during the year. Beyond these schools there are several provincial schools maintained by the natives themselves, with, in one instance, monetary assistance from Government. The general question of education within the Colony was the subject of a Commission which sat throughout the year 1909. The question as to steps to be taken to improve the educational facilities of the Colony is still under consideration, but provision was made in the Estimates for 1912 for extending the facilities for higher education by improvement of the Suva and Levuka Public Schools.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, and the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the charge of a resident medical officer, assisted by a matron, two staff nurses, one graduate nurse, and six pupil nurses, the whole meing supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. Admissions during 1911 amounted to 2,035, of whom 442 were Europeans. The number of Europeans admitted was thus over 100 per cent. greater than that in respect of the previous year. The revenue for the year was £1,793, and the expenditure £4,466.

A branch hospital has been erected at Levuka, and is under the charge of the district medical officer, assisted by a matron. This institution provides for the treatment of Europeans as well as natives living in the district.

There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government medical officers. The number of admissions to these provincial hospitals during 1911 was 5,855.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder, and the Chief Medical Officer is the superintendent of the asylum. The asylum is visited by the Board of Visitors appointed for the purpose. During 1911 there were 15 admissions and five discharges, leaving 29 inmates at the close of the year.

On the leper station at Beqa expenditure was incurred to the amount of £2,655 during 1911. At the end of 1910 there were 35 patients in segregation and these had been transferred to the new asylum at Makogai during the months of November and December. On the 31st December there were 40 lepers comfortably installed on the island. The work of collection and transportation of lepers previously residing in all parts of the group is now nearing completion. A large sum of money has been expended on the erection of buildings, the draining and cultivation of land, and the purchase and importation of stock.

Considerable progress has been made in establishing herds of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, to be used as food for the asylum.

Since no previous description of the new institution has been made the subject of a special and comprehensive report it may be of interest to give a brief account of the station.

The Island of Makogai, lying to the eastward of the main island of Vitilevu, some 18 miles north-east of Levuka and about 70 miles from Suva, contains approximately an area of 2,075 acres. The island, being circular in shape, rises near the centre to a height of some 800 feet. Coast lands are flat, and it is upon these that the various settlements for the inmates have been established. Here, also, have been placed the paddocks in which stock is run, and the richer portions of these lands are utilised for the planting of native foods, rice, &c. Makogai, formerly used as a coconut plantation and cattle run, was some three years ago purchased by Government. At the south end of the island at a place called Nasau is situated the station of the medical superintendent and the quarters of the European warder, mechanic, and the various native officers and labourers. There are also food plantations at Nasau and a butchery, and also a hospital and dispensary for the labour. This station is about two miles distant from the nearest leper settlement, and is separated from the rest of the island by a high wire fence. Springs on the island provide a good water supply for the station.

The main leper station is known as Daleci. It is connected with Nasau by a bridle track which passes through flat lands on the coast. This settlement is provided with comfortable dwellings built of wood, suitable for the accommodation of four or five inmates. There are also larger buildings at some of the settlements for the accommodation of more than one family. To each dwelling is attached a kitchen, latrine, &c. Hospitals have been established for both males and females, quarters for European lepers, and for native medical practitioners and servants, store rooms, a lock-up, and some distance from the leper settlement quarters for the two European nursing sisters and the female native assistants. A stream some 150 feet above Daleci, in the hills, is connected by water-pipe, and distributes water to the whole settlement. Each leper is allotted a parcel of land on which, if he can do so, he is expected to plant food to supplement his ration allowance. Planting is systematically carried out with green manure crops to improve the soil. The station is supplied with an auxiliary cutter which is used for the transport of stores and mails weekly from the Port of Levuka.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1911 was £11,534 16*s*. 8*d*.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a keeper, with European overseers and native warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers who are usually the European police officers stationed in the respective districts. The gaols of the Colony are controlled by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The total number of persons committed in 1911 to Suva and Levuka common gaols was 652, as against 857 for the previous year.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 6,160, or an increase of 14 as compared with the year 1910. Of these reported offences 776 were offences against the person, 372 larceny, 141 offences against property (other than larceny), and the greater portion of the balance were offences against labour laws by indentured labourers.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last five years:—

1907	7,312
1908	6,700
1909	6,571
1910	6,146
1911	6,160

There are 19 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 444 male and nine female prisoners, making a total of 453, confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities being:—

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
European	2	—	2
Indian	258	7	265
Polynesian	16	—	16
Fijian	166	2	168
Rotuman	1	—	1
Samoan	1	—	1
Total...	444	9	453

All prisoners sentenced to terms of 12 months' imprisonment and over, or to penal servitude, are confined in Suva Gaol, only short-sentence prisoners being confined in the provincial gaols.

The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva Gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was £4,709, as against a total expenditure of £5,335. The value of each unit is placed at 2*s.* per diem. New industries were instituted in Suva Gaol during the year, including mat and brush making, printing, and tinsmithy.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of the year 1911 as compared with the estimated population at the close of the previous year:—

Class.	Estimate on 31st December, 1910.			Estimate on 31st December, 1911.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	2,059	1,343	3,402	2,406	1,328	3,734
Half-castes	951	899	1,850	1,232	1,198	2,430
Indians	25,604	13,683	39,287	28,258	15,044	43,302
Polynesians	2,541	359	2,900	2,630	361	2,991
Rotumans	1,047	1,130	2,197	978	987	1,965
Fijians	45,587	41,873	87,460	46,191	41,038	87,229
Chinese	—	—	—	276	29	305
Others	281	211	492	455	350	805

Total population on 31st December, 1911 ...	142,761
" " " 1910 ...	137,588
Increase for year	5,173

The population of the Colony, including the island of Rotumah, on the night on which the Census was taken (2nd April) was 139,541 persons.

The following table shows the total population enumerated by the Census of 1901 and that of 1911:—

Race.	1901 Census.	1911 Census.	Increase.	Decrease.
Europeans and other whites ...	2,459	3,707	1,248	—
Half-castes	1,516	2,401	885	—
Indians	17,105	40,286	23,181	—
Polynesians	1,950	2,758	808	—
Fijians	94,397	87,096	—	7,301
Rotumans	2,230	2,176	—	54
Chinese and others	467	1,117	650	—
	120,124	139,541 120,124		
	Increase 19,417 over decennial period.			

A decrease of 231 occurred during the year in the native population. The following table shows the increases and decreases occurring during the last seven years:—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1905	133	—
1906	32	—
1907	—	97
1908	85	—
1909	276	—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1910	70	—
1911	—	231
	596	328
	328	
Increase over period ...	268	

It will be seen, therefore, that an increase has taken place over the last seven years, although as shown in the Census returns the decrease since 1901 totals 7,301. The figure is a large one but is smaller actually and proportionately than that recorded at the 1901 Census.

IX.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1911 show the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year 108·346 inches. For the previous year the rainfall recorded was 107·812 inches. The greatest rainfall in any one day throughout the year was 15·907 inches on the 12th November. The highest temperature in the shade was 95·2° Fahr. on the 3rd January, 1911, and the lowest 58·1° Fahr. on the 10th July.

X.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

A subsidy of £3,412 was paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails from and to Fiji.

Interinsular services were subsidised during 1911 to the extent of £5,332. Local subsidies have increased by an amount of £1,268, which is the added cost of better inter-island communication.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka —a distance of 54 miles—of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka— a distance of 125 miles—*viâ* Nausori, on the Rewa River, Nadarivatu, and Ba. It is controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. During the year telephonic communication throughout the town of Suva was instituted and is working satisfactorily. The wireless telegraph system of the Colony was extended during the year to Labasa, the sugar centre on the island of Vanua Levu, and three stations were opened for general traffic. Considerable use is being made of the system, but the expense entailed in its maintenance is hardy justified at present by the amount of traffic.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

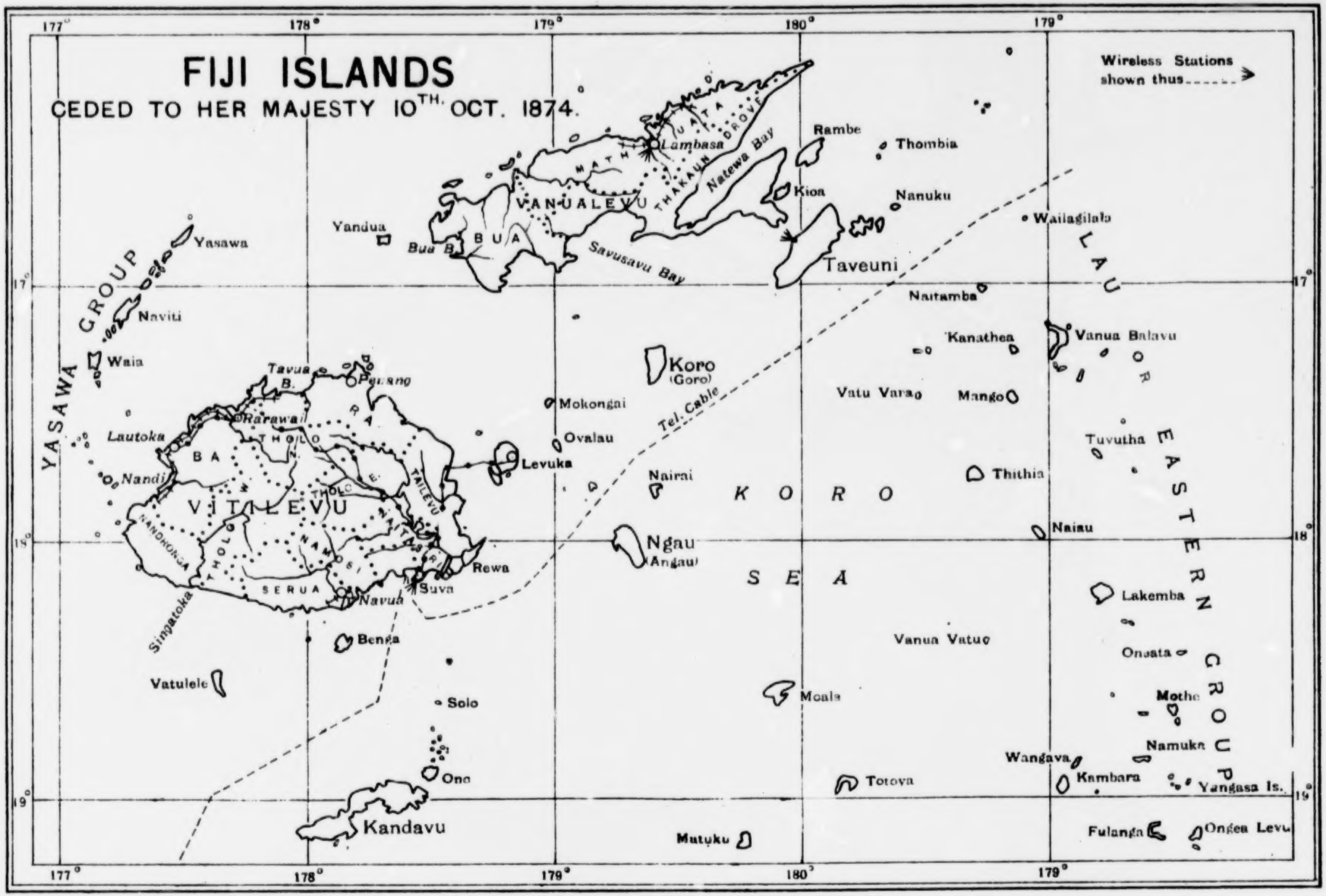
The Colony continues to progress satisfactorily. Legislation passed during the year should tend to improve the general conditions of life. In Suva, the capital, a much better class of building is required by the building regulations. The municipality is invested with increased powers, and now employ an engineer, who is town surveyor, for the purpose of supervising generally the construction of buildings and roads. A large area of native land has been taken up on leasehold tenure, and the industries of the Colony, mostly agricultural, have increased in value. The Sigatoka district, now being opened up, promises to be one of the principal sugar-producing districts in the Colony, and when tramline connection with Lautoka has been established the output of sugar thereby should be considerably increased. Consideration has been given to the question of the construction of a railway from Suva through the Rewa valley, and it is reasonably anticipated that if the project is carried into effect and an outlet thus provided for the inland resources of the island of Viti Levu the export of green fruit and of other products should be considerably extended.

The field work of the trigonometrical survey of Viti Levu was completed during the year, and arrangements were made for a survey of the island of Vanua Levu to be taken in hand during 1912.

Proposals were approved during the year for the re-establishment of the Native Lands Commission during the present year to proceed with the delimitation of the areas and boundaries of native land, to be followed by an immediate survey of these lands. The work of this Commission promises to be of incalculable benefit to the natives and to the future work of the Government in the administration of the land now alienated and hereafter to be leased by the Government on behalf of the native owners.

I have, &c.,
EYRE HUTSON,
Deputy Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Vernon Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.



FIJI ISLANDS

CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH. OCT. 1874.

Wireless Stations shown thus
177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
Naviti
Waia
Lautoka
Nandi
Yandua
Bua B.
BUA
VANUALEVU
MATH
THAKAUN DROVE
UATA
Lambasa
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
Rambe
Kioa
Thombia
Nanuku
Taveuni
Wailagilala
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP
Naitamba
Kanathea
Vanua Balavu
Vatu Vara
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
Naiau
Lakemba
Onsata
Mothe
Namuka
Wangava
Kambara
Yangasa Is.
Fulanga
Ongea Levu
Tavua B.
Pe.ang
RA
Rarawai
THOLO
BA
VITILEVU
TAILEVU
NAITASIRI
NAMOSI
NANDRONGA
SERUA
Singatoka
Navua
Suva
Rewa
Levuka
Ovalau
Mokongai
Koro (Goro)
Tel. Cable
Nairai
Ngau (Angau)
KORO SEA
Benga
Vatulele
Solo
Ono
Kandavu
Vanua Vatu
Moala
Totoya
Matuku

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	„
704	Northern Nigeria	„
705	East Africa Protectorate	„
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	„
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	„
712	St. Vincent	„
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	„
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	„
719	Ashanti	„
720	Falkland Islands	„
721	Seychelles	„
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
723	Hong Kong	„
724	Sierra Leone	„
725	Gold Coast	„
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 768.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 727.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1913.

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SKETCH MAP.

No. 768.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 727.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
9th June, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Report by Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of Fiji for the year 1912.

2. The Blue Book itself is now in the hands of the printer, and copies will be transmitted to you in due course.

3. The revenue for 1912 was the highest collected in the history of the Colony, and exceeded the revenue for 1911 by no less than £43,552 4*s.* 4*d.* Excluding the expenditure on what are termed "Loan Works," namely, the Suva Harbour and Drainage Works, which amounted last year to £16,413, and will be met ultimately from the loan to be raised under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1910, the revenue for 1912 exceeded the expenditure by the handsome sum of £32,202 16*s.* 9*d.* On the 31st December last the surplus of the Colony's assets over its liabilities was £121,008 19*s.* 5*d.*

4. I invite attention to the rapid increase in the Indian population, and to the satisfactory increase that has taken place for the first time for many years in the native or Fijian population. Provided the increase in the population continues, lands are made available for European and Indian settlement, the Colony can be opened up by a better road system than now obtains, and steam communication between the different islands and the capital can be improved, the future of this Colony should be a bright one.

5. The Fiji Islands cover an area of 7,435 square miles, or more than the area of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, and Barbados put together, and are capable of sustaining a population which can be counted in millions. The opening in 1915 of the Panama Canal should prove an important event for Fiji, and, if steps are taken to attract shipping to its ports, a considerable expansion in its trade may be anticipated with confidence during the next decade.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(31463—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 9/13. D & S.

FIJI BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £283,947, or £43,552 greater than the revenue for 1911, and £15,747 in excess of the original estimate of the year's receipts. The principal increases were under the heads of Customs (£17,120), Stamp Duty (£9,500), Buildings and Hut Tax (£9,221), Telephone Receipts (£1,364), and Land Sales (£4,888). The increase in the revenue from Customs dues is accounted for by the increased importation of dutiable goods, such as biscuits, flour, drapery, meats, oils, and rice. Legacy and estate duty to the amount of £8,718 17*s.* 1*d.* was paid on one estate during 1912. The tax imposed under the Buildings and Hut Tax Ordinance was levied for the first time in 1912. A portion of the foreshore at Lautoka was sold during 1912 for the sum of £5,000. The revenue received for the year 1912 is greater than that received in respect of any previous year, and is greater than the average annual revenue received during the five previous years by a sum of approximately £86,332.

The expenditure for 1912 was originally estimated at £287,645, but, by direction of the Secretary of State, the vote for Public Works Extraordinary was reduced by £15,000. The actual expenditure for 1912 amounted to £268,158, or £15,789 less than the amount of revenue received. Included in the expenditure is a sum of £16,413 advanced against Loan Account for harbour and drainage works at Suva.

The total revenue and expenditure for the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1908	178,015	5	8	197,798	16	1
1909	177,909	13	5	187,684	13	0
1910	211,952	5	2	236,661	0	3
1911	240,394	14	9	265,347	8	8
1912	283,946	19	1	268,157	14	7

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1912, was £104,595, but this does not include the amount of £16,413 advanced against Loan Works. The surplus of assets over liabilities was, therefore, £121,008.

The nominal amount of stock held by Government was £111,463 10*s.* 0*d.*; the original cost was £112,207 11*s.* 0*d.*, and the value of the stock on the 31st December, 1912, was £102,315 9*s.* 7*d.*

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1912:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Loan without interest	30,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	52,000	0	0
	£82,815	1	3

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan, the interest on debentures so redeemed being applied to the further reduction of the debt. The debt of the Colony was reduced during the year by £10,700.

The legal tender currency and the only coin in circulation is English sterling. There is at present no Government note issue. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales; the former has branches at Suva and Levuka, and the latter at Suva, Levuka, and Lautoka. Both these banks have a private note issue, the amount in circulation on the 31st December, 1912, being £1,790. The note issue is not officially recognised.

The business of the Government Savings Bank shows a slight increase. During the year 300 accounts were opened, as against 259, and 167 were closed, as against 138 in 1911. At the end of 1912, 530 accounts remained open, and an amount of £10,783 7*s*. 0*d*. stood to the credit of depositors, showing an average of £20 6*s*. 11*d*. to the credit of each depositor. The total amount deposited during 1912 exceeded the amount deposited during 1911 by £209 3*s*. 7*d*. Interest earned on investments amounted to £271 1*s*. 1*d*. Interest paid or credited to depositors was £206 15*s*. 2*d*. Incidental expenses amounted to £18 9*s*. 9*d*. No charge is made for expenses of management, which is in the hands of civil servants, who perform this work as part of their duties.

At Levuka, 30 accounts were opened and 13 closed. Deposits there amounted to £802 8*s*. 0*d*., and withdrawals to £467 9*s*. 11*d*. At the General Post Office, Suva, 98 accounts were opened and a sum of £1,951 18*s*. 0*d*. deposited. These figures are included in those referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Branch offices were also opened at Lomaloma, Lautoka, and Makogai.

The bank's funds are invested in England to the extent of £7,789 19*s*. 8*d*.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities and School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1908	3,147	3,091	1,102	1,554
1909	3,215	3,575	1,555	1,433
1910	5,609	4,933	2,382	1,875
1911	5,772	7,081	2,068	2,266
1912	7,229	8,605	4,582	3,597

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1908	1,235	1,031	839	915
1909	967	1,011	741	714
1910	930	859	836	786
1911	1,354	1,275	683	882
1912	1,088	1,020	1,069	1,065

The debt of the Municipality of Suva consists of a Debenture Loan of £2,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent. and repayable at the rate of £100 a year. The amount of the debt on 31st December, 1912, was £1,400. A loan of £600, without interest, was made to the Suva Municipality during 1910 from general revenue to assist the Council in meeting expenses incurred in repairing damage caused by the hurricane in March, 1910. The loan is repayable by annual instalments of £100.

The debt of the Municipality of Levuka consists of a Debenture Loan of £500 bearing interest at 5 per cent. and repayable by annual instalments of £50, and a Debenture Loan of £1,400 bearing interest at 4 per cent. The former stood at £100 and the latter at £1,400 on the 31st December, 1912.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the years 1911 and 1912:—

Nature of Import.	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	3,312	3,564
Bags and sugar-mats	25,968	26,871
Beer	6,219	7,824
Books	2,157	2,959
Boots and shoes	9,884	8,390
Breadstuffs and biscuits	60,443	72,344
Bran	6,985	7,183
Butter and ghee	17,631	17,629
Cement	7,678	8,817
Cigars and cigarettes	2,906	4,033
Coal	28,684	25,910
Cordage	4,210	4,589
Cutlery	5,750	5,773
Drapery	146,425	158,357
Drugs	6,610	8,363
Electroplated ware	2,667	3,377
Fish	12,214	19,492
Furniture	6,567	5,120
Galvanised iron and goods... ...	22,237	22,910

Nature of Import.	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Glassware and crockery	4,864	4,710
Grain	4,987	6,146
Grease and tallow	3,117	4,288
Hardware	56,601	55,888
Horses	8,755	7,325
Iron-bar, rod, sheet-rails, and pipes	23,422	19,477
Jewellery	4,479	5,916
Leatherware	7,670	7,046
Live stock	14,681	13,219
Machinery	38,728	28,774
Machinery—agricultural	10,595	7,307
Manure	7,221	11,628
Meats	22,489	27,055
Milk	2,462	3,144
Oils	20,470	25,557
Paints	5,508	6,167
Rice	16,945	27,381
Sheep	3,240	3,506
Soap	1,611	2,049
Spirits	11,866	12,061
Stationery	7,459	6,765
Sugar	5,015	6,272
Tea	3,531	4,007
Timber	47,535	45,106
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes)	10,663	10,421
Toys and fancy goods	1,460	4,243
Vegetables and fruit (fresh) ...	8,706	11,858
Wines	2,871	3,382

The items showing increases of note are breadstuffs and biscuits, meats, manure, rice, and vegetables and fruit. The continued increase in imports is due to the fact that the Colony's industries continued to progress steadily despite the temporary set-back caused by the hurricane in January, 1912.

Particulars regarding the number, nationality, and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the ports of the Colony during 1911 and 1912 are given in the following table:—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1911.		1912.		1911.		1912.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ...	Steam	140	290,167	134	299,749	134	285 031	135	295,923
" ...	Sailing	3	1,345	1	1,031	2	1,188	2	1,187
German ...	"	—	—	1	1,958	—	—	—	—
American ...	"	6	2,942	6	3,364	4	2,216	5	2,829
Norwegian	"	1	1,023	—	—	1	1,023	—	—
French ...	Steam	—	—	2	164	—	—	2	164
" ...	Sailing	—	—	2	3,487	—	—	2	3,487

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences during 1912 were:—

	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	112	2,603
Native-owned vessels	152	982
Chinese-owned vessels	10	136
Halfcaste-owned vessels	19	253
Indian-owned vessels	7	36
	300	4,010

The following statement shows the total shipping entered and cleared during the past five years:—

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1908	244,173	234,860	474,033
1909	272,552	274,140	546,692
1910	262,273	253,299	515,572
1911	295,477	289,458	584,935
1912	309,753	303,590	613,343

The following figures show the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Colony during the past five years: —

Year.	No.	Tons.
1908	134	224,173
1909	140	272,552
1910	124	262,273
1911	150	295,477
1912	146	309,753

The total imports and exports for the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1908	662,654	878,393
1909	636,250	947,136
1910	829,029	1,005,818
1911	854,193	1,275,235
1912	940,044	1,058,960

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs Duties Levied.
	£
1908	106,595
1909	106,357
1910	131,691
1911	150,165
1912	165,145

The bulk of the Colony's trade continues to be conducted through Australia and New Zealand. The total trade of the Colony during the year 1912 was distributed amongst the various countries as follows:—

Country.	Total. £
United Kingdom	230,562
British Possessions:—	
New South Wales	868,907
New Zealand	600,515
Victoria	72,472
Queensland	2,841
India	41,369
Canada	75,929
Hong Kong	8,868
Other British Possessions	2,870
Total British Possessions	£1,674,421
Foreign Countries:—	
United States of America	51,618
Japan	6,191
France	1,014
Germany	29,462
Belgium	1,319
Other Foreign Countries	4,416
Total Foreign Countries	£94,020
Totals:—	
United Kingdom	230,562
British Possessions	1,674,421
Foreign Countries	94,020
Total Trade	£1,999,004

The value of imports from the United Kingdom rose from £164,636 in 1911 to £184,862 in 1912. The exports to the United Kingdom in 1912 consisted almost entirely of copra.

The Receiver-General reports as follows on British and foreign trade:—

"The trade statistics in this Colony are compiled on the basis, "not of country of origin, but on country of consignment, and it "is not known from the statistics whether the goods are of British "or foreign manufacture.

"Speaking generally, the proportion of British manufactured "goods to the total importations is exceedingly high in Fiji. "This is due in no small measure to the fact that the bulk of the "export trade is with the adjoining British countries of Australia "and New Zealand; that there are no, or few, direct means of "communication with non-British countries; that most of the "trade is in the hands of British subjects; and that it is con-"venient to procure supplies from Australia. The bulk of food-"stuffs, viz., flour, rice, biscuits, meats, potatoes, onions and "dholl, will no doubt still be obtained from Australia, New "Zealand, and India, owing to the proximity of the two former "places and the cheap rates of freights ruling from the latter

“ country. But, as regards manufactured goods, there is already the tendency, which will grow in future, to obtain goods in the cheapest markets now offering in Germany, Japan, the United States, and Sweden.

“ 16. From the United States are being obtained agricultural implements, oil engines, boots, wooden ware, oars, handles, wood blocks, lamps, paper bags, petroleum products, resin, and turpentine. From Germany, sewing machines, common jewellery, perfumery, buttons, brushware, toys, pianos, beer, wire nails, fencing wire, lamps, wooden pipes, fancy goods, and common tools. From Japan, cheap undershirts, hosiery, camphor, brushware, silk and silk manufactures. From Sweden, matches (the safety kind, which is almost invariably used in Fiji) and calcium carbide.”

The decrease in exports in 1912, as compared with 1911, is attributable to the effects of the hurricane in January, 1912.

The staple products of the Colony remain the same; the quantity and value of these exports during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons	£	£
1908... ...	66,149	647,306	12,931	154,488	62,217
1909... ...	60,825	607,969	15,880	226,599	98,491
1910... ...	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841	47,302
1911... ...	72,834	797,274	16,337	294,245	151,668
1912... ...	61,728	671,713	13,710	242,073	120,510

During the year green fruit of the total value of £120,510 was exported, of which about one-third was shipped to the Melbourne market by means of the greater facilities in transport provided during the year. The revenue derived from the imposition of the Banana Subsidy and Inspection Tax, levied under Ordinance XII. of 1911, amounted to £2,034 12*s*. 9*d*., against which the cost of inspection and subsidies on account of the banana trade amounted to £5,097.

The following statement shows the quantity of bananas exported during each of the last five years:—

Year.			Bunches.	Cases.
1908	...	...	356,180	145,110
1909	...	...	585,713	188,577
1910	...	...	271,024	81,225
1911	...	...	897,345	219,551
1912	...	...	589,743	209,772

The total area of land under sugar-cane cultivation on the 31st December, 1912, was estimated at 43,358 acres, from which were produced 480,658 tons of sugar-cane. The area under cocoanuts, or cultivated by Europeans, and exclusive of native plantations, was estimated at 32,810 acres. The estimated cultivated area under bananas and pineapples on the 31st December last was 6,692 and 54 acres respectively. These figures do not include native plantations, as to which details are not available. It is from native plantations that the greater part of the green fruit exported is produced. Fruit so grown is sold under contract to European buyers, who ship the produce to the respective markets. Previous to the year 1911, the cultivation of bananas for export was confined principally to the Rewa Valley and to the Sigatoka district, from which the produce can be easily transported to meet ocean steamers sailing from Suva and from Momi, a port of call adjacent to the Sigatoka River. During 1912, a steamer of the Union Steamship Company continued to make periodical visits to Savu Savu Bay district on the southern side of the island of Vanua Levu. It is hoped that still greater facilities for transport and conveyance of fruit to the port of Suva may be provided in the near future, and that the cultivation of fruit will increase considerably.

After deducting the three principal items of export from the value of the total exports of the Colony, the value of the minor products exported during each of the last five years amounted to:—

Year.	£
1908	13,321
1909	13,752
1910	30,171
1911	32,048
1912	24,236

The principal minor exports were trocas shell, £7,573; molasses, £7,259; turtle shell, £2,087; and hides and pelts, £1,480. More attention might, with advantage, be given to the cultivation of products other than sugar, fruit and copra. Some considerable area of land is being leased to planters for the cultivation of sisal hemp, and it is anticipated that the production of this fibre will become an important industry in some districts of the Colony. Land in considerable areas unsuited to the cultivation of the staple products is available for settlement.

LAND GRANTS.

The following is a statement of land alienations which shows approximately the position in regard to land as it stood on the 31st December, 1912, as compared to the position at the end of 1911:—

	Acres.	
	1911.	1912.
Crown Grants:—		
Area held by Crown on Crown Grant	9,865	9,865
Area held by settlers on Crown Grant	418,134	418,149
Total area held on Crown Grant	427,999	428,014

	Acres. 1911.	Acres. 1912.
Native Grants:—		
Area held by Crown on Native Grant ...	50,878	52,338
Area held by settlers on Native Grant ...	37,812	38,745
Total area held on Native Grant ...	88,690	91,083
Native Leaseholds:—		
Area held by Indians on Native Leasehold	21,781	23,140
Area held by Europeans on Native Leasehold	120,765	140,478
Total area of Native Leaseholds held by settlers	142,546	163,618
Crown Leaseholds:—		
Area held by Indians on Crown Leasehold...	3,850	3,870
Area held by Europeans on Crown Leasehold	36,280	37,364
Total area of Crown Leaseholds held by settlers	40,130	41,234

It will thus be seen that the alienated lands of the Colony are as follows:—

	Acres.
Crown Grants	428,014
Native Grants	91,083
Total Freehold area	519,097
Add Native Leasehold area	163,618
Add Crown Leasehold area	41,234
Total alienated area	723,949

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1912 there were introduced into the Colony 3,402 Indian immigrants, as against 4,216 during the previous year. The total population of East Indians in the Colony was 47,851. The number of East Indians serving under indenture on the 31st December last was 15,369 (male adults, 9,767; female adults, 3,400; children, 2,202) and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 32,482. The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was:—

Adult females	43·17 to 100 males.
Non-adult females	99·95 to 100 males.

The number of charges laid in each of the past five years for breaches of labour laws is as follows:—

1908	2,237
1909	1,924
1910	1,911
1911	1,520
1912	1,256

The steady decrease indicated in the number of charges laid is satisfactory, and it may be said to be due in part to more effective distribution of labour and to the rigid inspections carried out by the Department of Immigration.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these the most important were:—

Ordinance No. VII. (the Cinematograph Ordinance), which provides for the better regulation and control of cinematograph exhibitions. Supervision is exercised at exhibitions to insure safety from fire, and cinematograph displays are subject to the permit of the Inspector-General of Constabulary.

Ordinance No. VIII. (the Forests Ordinance) amends the law relating to forests and timber. Provision is made for the proclamation of forest reserves, for the constitution of village forests, for the prohibition of certain acts in reserved forests, for the issue of licences to cut timber in such forests, and for the making of regulations with regard to any reserved forest.

Ordinance No. XVII. (the Customs Duties Ordinance) provides for the imposition of customs dues on certain articles hitherto included in the free list, and for a redistribution of dues imposed on food stuffs and necessaries of life.

Ordinance No. XXIV. (the Ba and Sigatoka Light Railways Ordinance) authorises and provides for the regulation of certain light railways constructed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited. Certain regulations are laid down for the control of the running of the trains, of the passenger traffic, and of the permanent way. The Governor in Council is given power to make further regulations, and the Company is empowered to make by-laws to regulate traffic and access to stations and other parts adequately fenced.

Ordinance No. XXVI. (the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance) renders illegal the establishment of a system of wireless telegraphy in the Colony without a licence to instal such an apparatus first obtained from the Governor. The Governor is empowered to make regulations to regulate the use of wireless apparatus, and penalties are laid down for breaches of the Ordinance or of regulations made thereunder.

Ordinance No. XXVII. (the Animals Protection Ordinance) provides for the protection of certain birds, animals, and fish. Power is given to the Governor in Council to reserve certain areas for the protection of game, and penalties are laid down for breaches of the Ordinance or of regulations made thereunder.

Ordinance No. XXIX. (the Suva Sewerage Ordinance) provides for the appointment of a Commissioner with certain defined powers to establish and construct a system of sewerage within the town of Suva. Provision is also made for the imposition of rates, for the collection of the same by the Municipal Council, and for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, with powers to make regulations relating to the Suva sewerage system.

V.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted areas. The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the School Funds of each district, consisting of (1) an annual grant by Government on the average attendance on a fixed scale, and (2) a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. During the year the Government grant to the Suva Public School amounted to £457 10*s*. 9*d*., and the school rates to £430. There are two aided schools under these School Boards, at which education is free to children living within the school districts between the ages of six and fourteen years. These schools are inspected annually by an Inspector from the Education Department of Victoria. The children of people living in country districts are provided for by a boarding establishment attached to the Levuka school, where there is accommodation for a limited number. The Suva Public School has five teachers, with an average attendance of 143. The Levuka School has two teachers and an average attendance, during 1912, of 116·2. The Roman Catholic Mission provides three schools for the education of European children. The total number of children attending these schools in 1912 was 217. The education of natives is conducted mainly by the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions. The former have 1,006, with a total attendance of 16,976. These figures include six minor schools set apart for the Indian community. The Roman Catholic Mission have 157 schools, and in 1912 1,905 native children were on their school rolls. The Government Native School at Nasinu is under the charge of two European masters. It is entirely a boarding school, and there were 70 pupils during the year. Beyond these schools there are several provincial schools maintained by the natives themselves, with, in one instance, monetary assistance from Government. The general question of education within the Colony was the subject of a commission which sat throughout the year 1909. The question as to steps to be taken to improve the educational facilities of the Colony is under consideration.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the charge of a resident medical officer assisted by a junior medical officer, a matron, two staff nurses, one graduate nurse, and six pupil nurses, the whole being supervised by the Chief Medical Officer. Admissions during 1912 amounted to 1,728, of whom 211 were Europeans. The number of Europeans admitted in the previous year was 195. The revenue for the year was £1,750 4*s*. 9*d*, and the expenditure £3,019 4*s*. 4*d*.

There is a branch hospital at Levuka under the charge of the district medical officer, assisted by a matron. This institution provides for the treatment of Europeans as well as natives living in the district.

There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government medical officers. The number of admissions to these provincial hospitals during 1912 was 3,917.

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of a European warder, and the Chief Medical Officer is the superintendent of the asylum. The asylum is visited by the Board of Visitors appointed for the purpose. During 1912 there were 17 admissions and 7 discharges, leaving 39 inmates at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a medical superintendent, assisted by two European nursing sisters and two native medical practitioners. On the 31st December, 1912, there were 154 lepers in the asylum. The work of collection and transportation of lepers previously residing in all parts of the group is now nearing completion.

Considerable progress has been made in establishing herds of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, to be used as food for the asylum.

The expenditure on the asylum during 1912, exclusive of public works, amounted to £3,504 17*s.* 5*d.* A full description of the asylum is given in the report for 1911.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1912 was £11,219.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a keeper, with European overseers and native warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers who are usually the European police officers stationed in the respective districts. The gaols of the Colony are controlled by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The total number of persons committed in 1912 to Suva and Levuka common gaols was 621, as against 652 for the previous year, and 857 for 1910.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 4,322. Of these reported offences 435 were offences against the person, 322 larceny, 49 offences against property (other than larceny), and the greater portion of the balance were offences against labour laws by indentured labourers.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last five years:—

1908	6,700
1909	6,571
1910	6,146
1911	6,160
1912	4,322

The total number of complaints against indentured immigrants in 1912 was 1,256, as compared with 1,520 in 1911.

There are 19 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 360 male and three female prisoners, making a total of 363, confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities being:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
European	6	—	6
Indian	218	3	221
Polynesian	13	—	13
Fijian	123	—	123
Total	360	3	363

All prisoners sentenced to terms of six months' imprisonment and over, or to penal servitude, are confined in Suva gaol, only short-sentence prisoners being confined in the provincial gaols.

Shot-drill as a punishment has been abolished, and a system of marks for good behaviour has been introduced, and is in force in the gaols at Suva and Levuka. Considerable progress is being made in the establishment of the separate system of confinement in all the prisons of the Colony.

The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was £5,020, as against a total expenditure of £5,127. The value of each unit is placed at 2*s*. per diem. Prisoners are mainly employed on public works, but a certain number are taught mat and brush making, printing, and tinsmithy.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of the year 1912 as compared with the population at the census on 2nd April, 1911:—

Class.	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimate on 31st December, 1912.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	2,403	1,304	3,707	2,727	1,404	4,131
Half-castes	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,277	1,235	2,512
Indians	26,073	14,213	40,286	31,076	17,538	48,614
Polynesians	2,429	329	2,758	2,434	335	2,769
Rotumans	1,043	1,133	2,176	978	987	1,965
Fijians	46,110	40,986	87,096	46,459	41,374	87,833
Chinese	276	29	305	372	25	397
Others	457	355	812	547	411	958

Total population at Census, 1911 139,541
" , on 31st December, 1912 ... 149,179

Increase 9,638

An increase of 604 occurred during the year in the native population. The following table shows the increases and decreases occurring during the last eight years:—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1905	133	—
1906	32	—
1907	—	97
1908	85	—
1909	276	—
1910	70	—
1911	—	231
1912	604	—
	1,200	328
	328	
Increase over period ...	872	

IX.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1912 show the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year, 115·406 inches. For the previous year the rainfall recorded was 108·346 inches. The greatest rainfall in any one day throughout the year was 10·037 inches. The highest temperature in the shade was 92·0° F., on the 18th March, 1912, and the lowest 60·0° F., on the 25th August.

X.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

A subsidy of £4,930 was paid to the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company for the carriage of mails from and to Fiji.

Interinsular services were subsidised during 1912 to the extent of £5,410.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka —a distance of 54 miles—of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka—a distance of 125 miles—*viâ* Nausori, on the Rewa river, Nadarivatu, and Ba. It is controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. There is a telephone system in the town of Suva. During 1912 a telephone line from Suva to Navua (29 miles) was completed at a cost of £1,322 5*s.* 0*d.*

There are three wireless telegraph stations in the Colony—at Suva, Taviuni, and Labasa.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns of trade and shipping for 1912 contained in the report indicate that the Colony continues to make steady progress. In Suva, the capital, loan works are now in progress which provide for improved wharfage accommodation at an estimated cost of £133,200, and a sewerage system estimated to cost £30,177 12*s*. 2*d*. A preliminary survey was made during 1912 of the proposed route for a railway from Suva through the valley of the Rewa river, and the scheme is now under the consideration of a railway engineer, who visited the Colony at the end of 1912 for the purpose of examining and reporting on the project. In connection with the harbour and wharf improvements a slip has been erected at Suva, at a cost of £10,400, capable of taking vessels up to 500 tons burden.

Considerable progress was made during 1912 in the erection of the new gaol in Suva.

This building is being constructed of concrete and will provide 177 separate cells.

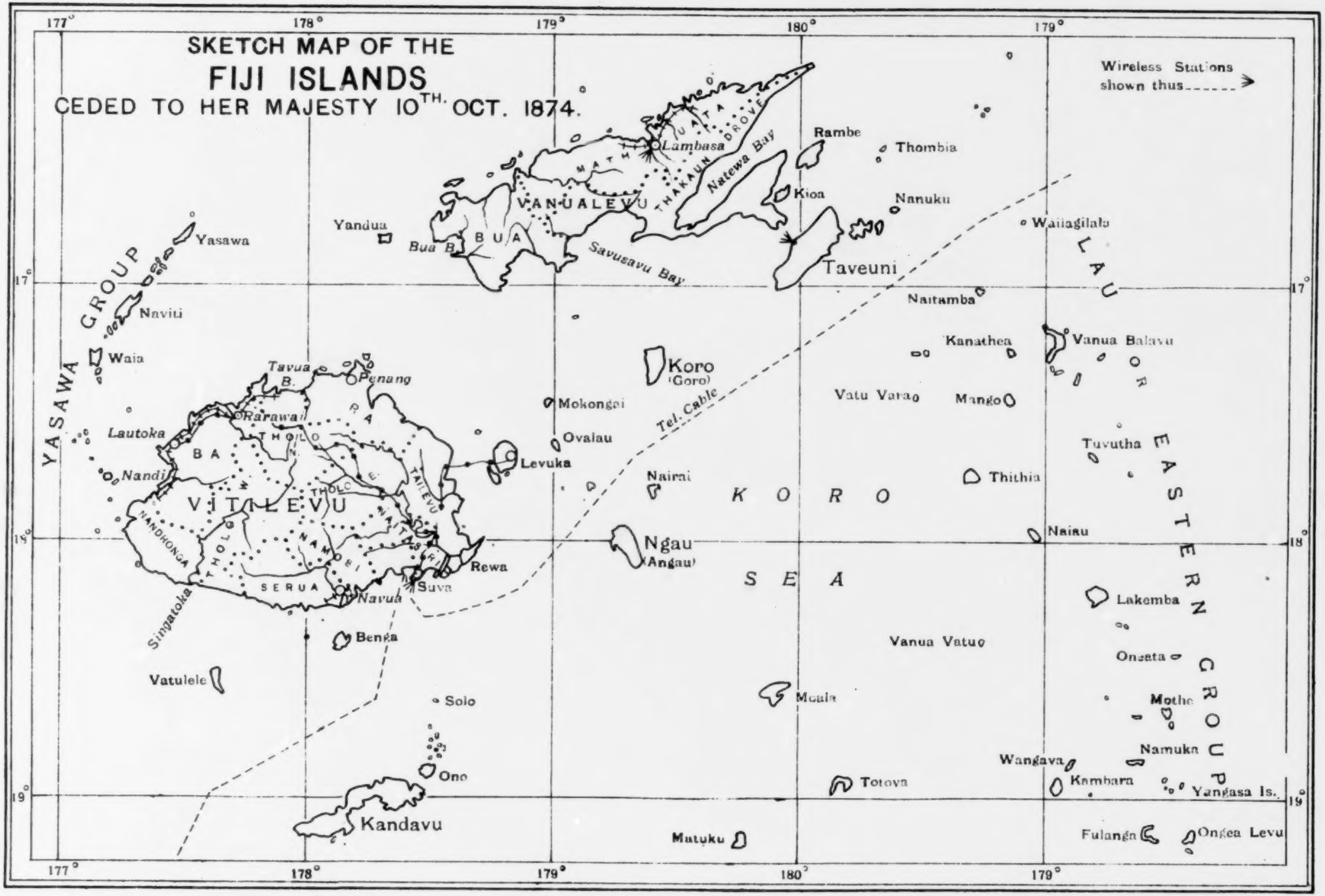
The field work in connection with the trigonometrical survey of Viti Levu was completed in 1911, and a start has now been made on the survey of Vanua Levu.

The Native Lands Commission appointed to enquire into the ownership of native lands was engaged during 1912 in holding enquiries in the Provinces of Nadroga and Colo West. The work of this Commission will be of great benefit to the natives and will materially assist the Government in opening up unused lands for settlement.

His Excellency Sir H. May, K.C.M.G., left the Colony for Hong Kong on 1st June, 1912, and His Excellency Sir E. B. Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government on the 25th July, 1912.

EYRE HUTSON,
Colonial Secretary.

6th June, 1913.



SKETCH MAP OF THE
FIJI ISLANDS
CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH. OCT. 1874.

Wireless Stations shown thus
177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
Naviti
Waia
Lautoka
Nandi
Yandua
Bua B.
BUA
VANUALEVU
MATH
THAKAUN DROVE
UATA
Lambasa
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
Rambe
Thombia
Kioa
Nanuku
Taveuni
Waiiagilala
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP
Naitamba
Kanathea
Vanua Balavu
Vatu Vara
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
Naiau
Lakemba
Oneata
Mothe
Namuka
Wangava
Kambara
Yangasa Is.
Fulanga
Ongea Levu
Tavua B.
Penang
Rarawai
RA
THOLO N.
THOLO E.
TAILEVU
BA
VITILEVU
NAITASIRI
NAMOSI
NANDHONGA
THOLO
SERUA
Singatoka
Navua
Suva
Rewa
Levuka
Ovalau
Mokongai
Koro (Goro)
Tel. Cable
Nairai
Ngau (Angau)
KORO SEA
Benga
Vatulele
Solo
Ono
Kandavu
Vanua Vatu
Moala
Totoya
Matuku

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
711	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East African Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwei	"
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.

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1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 811.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, See No. 768).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1914.

LONDON:
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1914.

[Cd. 7622-2.] *Price 2d.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 811.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 768.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
3rd August, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the Report on the Blue Book of Fiji for the year 1913 by Mr. R. Rankine, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(C75.) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 10.14. B.&F. Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £266,031, or £17,916 less than the revenue for 1912, and £14,460 less than the original estimate of the year's receipts. The principal decrease in the actual receipts for 1913, as compared with the estimates, was £21,575 under the head of Customs. The decrease was due principally to the effect of the hurricane experienced during the early part of the year and to the restriction of trade as a consequence of the quarantine laws enforced against small-pox, which occurred in New Zealand and Australia. But for these reasons there is little doubt that the revenue, which has been steadily and satisfactorily expanding during recent years, would have shown an excess over that for 1912, notwithstanding the fact that in the latter year there was a very exceptional receipt of over £7,000 under the sub-head "Stamp Duty" and of some £5,000 under the head "Land Sales."

The expenditure for 1913 was estimated at £322,842. The actual expenditure amounted to £324,528, or £58,497 in excess of the receipts for the year. Included in the expenditure, however, was £65,735 on account of the Suva Harbour Works and the Suva Drainage Works, which will be charged eventually to Loan Account, so that the ordinary expenditure was £7,238 less than the receipts, and the surplus balances, or the accumulated balances of revenue over expenditure, were therefore increased by that sum. The excess of assets over liabilities thus stood on the 31st December, 1913, at the sum of £128,247.

The total revenue and expenditure for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1909	177,909	13	5	187,684	13	0
1910	211,952	5	2	236,661	0	3
1911	240,394	14	9	265,347	8	8
1912	283,945	19	1	268,157	14	7
1913	266,031	4	1	324,527	19	1

It should be noted that the expenditure includes the sums advanced against Loan Expenditure, and is not therefore normal expenditure.

The following table shows the amounts collected under the several heads of revenue :—

Head of Revenue.	Revenue, 1913.	Revenue, 1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs.. ..	154,674 15 4	165,145 17 9	——	10,471 2 5
Port, Harbour, wharf and Light Dues ..	13,351 8 7	13,494 0 8	——	142 12 1
Native Taxes ..	16,207 8 5	16,197 12 6	9 15 11	——
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	32,482 12 10	40,309 2 4	——	7,826 9 6
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid..	25,121 17 8	21,662 16 7	3,459 1 1	——
Post Office ..	11,002 19 2	10,232 3 0	770 16 2	——
Rent	5,574 19 10	6,191 12 8	——	616 12 10
Interest	5,470 14 10	3,938 6 4	1,532 8 6	——
Miscellaneous ..	2,033 15 5	1,750 17 5	282 18 0	——
Land Sales and Premia on Leases.. ..	110 12 0	5,024 9 10	——	4,913 17 10
Total ..£	266,031 4 1	283,946 19 1	6,054 19 8	23,970 14 8

The following table shows the expenditure under the several heads of expenditure :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1913.	Expenditure, 1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges on account of Public Debt.. ..	17,197 17 10	13,250 0 0	3,947 17 10	——
Pensions ..	8,312 17 7	7,587 15 4	725 2 3	——
The Governor and Legislature	4,484 17 3	4,466 8 7	18 8 8	——
Do. Special Expenditure	74 11 11	——	74 11 11	——
Colonial Secretary	4,868 9 4	5,812 9 1	——	943 19 9
Native	7,917 5 2	9,636 19 0	——	1,719 13 10
Treasury and Savings Bank	2,873 4 11	3,306 13 11	——	433 9 0
Customs ..	6,204 16 11	5,873 3 2	331 13 9	——
Do. Special Expenditure	13 10 3	——	13 10 3	——
Audit	1,501 10 2	1,496 17 11	4 12 3	——
Port and Marine	3,670 15 0	3,471 11 7	——	70 16 7
Do. Special Expenditure	330 10 1	——	330 10 1	——
Lands	4,929 12 6	5,661 12 8	——	732 0 2
Do. Special Expenditure	3,429 0 11	——	3,429 0 11	——
Legal	16,117 2 9	14,902 17 10	1,214 4 11	——
Do. Special Expenditure	601 8 4	——	601 8 4	——
Carried forward £	82,727 10 11	77,466 9 1	10,691 1 2	3,899 19 4

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1913.	Expenditure, 1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	4 s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	82,727 10 11	77,466 9 1	10,691 1 2	3,899 19 4
Constabulary ..	12,386 15 4	11,478 13 11	908 1 5	—
Do. Special Expenditure	382 5 8	—	382 5 8	—
Prisons.. ..	6,009 12 5	6,696 6 11	—	686 14 6
Do. Special Expenditure	24 14 5	—	24 14 5	
Medical.. ..	20,001 15 8	17,848 12 3	2,153 3 5	—
Do. Special Expenditure	637 7 7	—	637 7 7	—
Hospitals and Asylums ..	8,579 5 10	7,983 1 8	596 4 2	—
Do. Special Expenditure	193 15 9	—	193 15 9	—
Education ..	3,026 19 1	2,789 5 5	237 13 8	—
Transport ..	4,626 18 5	6,224 6 11	—	1,597 8 6
Fiji Rifle Association ..	2,013 2 5	2,310 9 0	—	297 6 7
Miscellaneous ..	18,250 7 6	12,742 19 10	5,507 7 8	—
Do. Special Expenditure	2,320 17 7	—	2,320 17 7	—
Post and Telegraph ..	20,846 4 7	19,256 14 6	1,589 10 1	—
Do. Special Expenditure	4,832 17 0	—	4,832 17 0	—
Agricultural ..	3,421 9 4	2,189 3 9	1,223 5 7	—
Do. Special Expenditure	418 2 5	—	418 2 5	—
Immigration ..	7,433 8 7	9,480 11 5	—	2,047 2 10
Printing ..	3,401 8 7	3,568 10 10	—	167 2 3
Government Store	334 11 5	1,070 13 4	—	736 1 11
Works (Establishment) ..	11,687 15 1	6,510 6 9	5,177 8 4	—
Public Works, Recurrent ..	20,996 19 11	23,686 19 3	—	2,689 19 4
	234,354 5 6	209,582 4 10	36,893 15 11	12,121 15 3
Public Works, Extraordinary	24,438 8 8	42,161 17 6	—	17,723 8 10
Expenditure against Loan Account ..	65,735 4 11	16,413 12 3	49,321 12 8	—
£	324,527 19 1	268,157 14 7	56,370 4 6	—

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England.

The nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December, 1913, was £114,869 13*s*. 8*d*., the cost of which was £115,207 11*s*. The value of this stock, according to market quotations on the last day of the year, was £102,866 1*s*. 2*d*.

The Public Debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1913:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Loan without interest	25,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)..	46,100	0	0
	£71,915	1	3

as against £82,815 1*s*. 3*d*. on the last day of the preceding year. The Public Debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £10,900.

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a Sinking Fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

The legal tender, currency, and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. Arrangements have been made for a Government note issue. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1913, being £2,400. Their note issues are not recognized officially.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office, Suva, at Levuka, Loma Loma, Lautoka, Makogai and Labasa. Endeavour is being made to establish branches at each centre in the Colony. During the year 426 accounts were opened and 199 closed, as against 300 and 167 respectively in 1912. At the close of the year 759 accounts remained open, an amount of £15,771 remaining at the credit of depositors, as against £10,783 7*s*. at the close of the previous year. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was thus £20 15*s*. 7*d*. The total amount deposited was £16,075 5*s*. 8*d*., which exceeded the amount deposited in 1912 by £5,143 19*s*. 11*d*. Interest earned on investments amounted to £360 2*s*. 1*d*., as compared with £271 1*s*. 1*d*. in 1912. Interest paid or credited to depositors was £300 10*s*. 11*d*. Incidental expenses amounted to £29 15*s*. 6*d*. A sum of £25 was paid to the officer who attends on certain evenings during the year at the General Post Office, Suva, to receive deposits. No other expense is incurred for management, which is in the hands of civil servants as part of their duties.

The bank's funds to the extent of £11,000 are invested in England, to which funds in excess of the sums likely to be required in the Colony for bank purposes are remitted as they accrue.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities and School Boards :—

Year.	Suva Municipality. Revenue.	Suva Municipality. Expenditure.	Levuka Municipality. Revenue.	Levuka Municipality. Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1909	3,215	3,575	1,555	1,433
1910	5,609	4,933	2,382	1,875
1911	5,772	7,081	2,068	2,266
1912	7,229	8,605	4,582	3,597
1913	7,595	8,063	3,096	3,172

Year.	Suva School Board. Revenue.	Suva School Board. Expenditure.	Levuka School Board. Revenue.	Levuka School Board. Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1909	967	1,011	741	714
1910	930	859	836	786
1911	1,354	1,275	683	882
1912	1,088	1,020	1,069	1,065
1913	1,078	1,171	1,020	1,001

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during each of the years 1912 and 1913:—

Nature of Import.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	3,564	4,054
Bags and sacks	26,871	37,966
Beer	7,824	6,929
Books	2,959	1,993
Boots and shoes	8,390	9,241
Biscuits, flour, sharps, and pollard ..	72,344	67,920
Bran	7,183	5,749
Butter and ghee	17,629	20,310
Cement	8,817	9,214
Cigars and cigarettes	4,033	3,321
Coal	25,891	25,940
Cordage and rope	4,589	4,696
Cutlery	5,773	2,836
Drapery	158,357	104,049
Drugs	8,363	7,304
Fish	19,492	11,871
Furniture	5,120	4,104
Galvanised Iron goods	22,910	21,507
Glassware and crockery	4,710	4,261
Hardware	55,888	67,103
Iron—black, pig, and scrap, rails, fish plates, &c.	19,477	21,004
Jewellery	5,916	5,100
Leatherware	7,046	6,650
Live-stock	13,219	9,890
Machinery	28,774	50,776
Machinery—Agricultural	7,307	3,839
Manure	11,628	14,379
Meats	27,055	22,838
Oils	33,268	29,026
Paints	6,167	5,531
Rice	27,381	20,865
Soap	2,049	2,214
Spirits	12,061	12,173
Stationery	6,765	6,756
Sugar	6,272	5,507
Timber	45,100	57,640
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes) ..	10,421	9,395
Vegetables and fruit	11,858	10,200
Wines	3,382	2,136

The items showing increases of note are bags and sacks, butter and ghee, hardware, iron, machinery, manure, and timber. The largest decrease was shown on drapery, which fell from a value of £158,357 in 1912 to £104,049 in 1913. There were large decreases also on beer, biscuits, flour, sharps and pollard, fish, furniture, live-stock, agricultural machinery, meats, oils, rice, tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes), and wine. The increases under the items hardware and timber were due principally to large importations in connection with the Suva Harbour Works. The decreases were due to reduced spending power owing to the damage caused by hurricanes in each of the last three years and to the restrictions to trade on account of quarantine precautions against small-pox, which occurred in the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and value of these products exported during each of the last five years being as follows :—

Year.	Sugar Quantity.	Sugar Value.	Copra Quantity.	Copra Value.	Green Fruit. Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1909	60,825	607,069	15,880	226,599	98,491
1910	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841	47,302
1911	92,834	797,274	16,337	294,245	151,668
1912	61,728	671,713	13,710	242,073	120,510
1913	94,710	1,041,927	7,929	176,741	168,249

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, were as follows :—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1909	585,713	188,577
1910	271,024	81,225
1911	897,345	219,551
1912	589,743	209,772
1913	922,745	277,468

The export of sugar increased from 61,728 tons, valued at £671,713 in 1912, to 94,710, valued at £1,041,927, in 1913. Copra fell from 13,710 tons, valued at £13,710, to 7,929 tons, valued at £7,929. Green fruit (bananas) increased in value from £120,510 in 1912 to £168,249 in 1913. The greater export of sugar was due to some extent to the favourable season, but principally to a large increase in the area under cultivation, while the falling off of copra was due to the effects of hurricanes. The area under bananas has been extended considerably since the Victorian market was opened up by direct communication.

The export duty collected on bananas from the 1st January to the 30th September, 1913, was £4,697 18*s*. 6*d*. After the latter date the export duty was not collected, as subsidies previously paid for the carriage of fruit were withdrawn.

The total area of land under sugar cane on the 31st December, 1913, was estimated at 48,208 acres, from which were produced 736,992 tons of cane as against 43,358 acres under cane on the last day of 1912, from which were produced 480,658 tons of cane. The area under coconuts, cultivated by Europeans, was estimated at 32,915 acres. The estimated cultivated area under bananas and pineapples on the last day of 1913 was 6,608 and 99 acres respectively. These figures are exclusive of native plantations, as to which details are not available. It is from native plantations that a large part of the green fruit exported is produced, which is sold to European buyers, who export the produce.

Prior to the year 1911 the cultivation of bananas for export was confined principally to the Rewa Valley and the Sigatoka district, from which places transport to the shipping ports of Suva and Momi is not difficult. During recent years the areas under bananas have spread to other parts of the Colony—a movement much to be desired—so that the export will not be interfered with so seriously in case of gales being experienced, which are frequently very local in their character. Unfortunately, disease has overtaken the bananas at Sigatoka, which has diminished the export from that district, while a scale (Aspidiotus) has attacked the bananas there and at other places. Steps have been taken to enforce spraying and fumigation, and it is to be hoped that all interested will recognize the necessity for taking the necessary steps to combat this and other diseases, so that the prosperity of one of the most valuable industries of the Colony may not be endangered.

It was hoped that it might have been possible to make satisfactory arrangements for the carriage of bananas to Canada and so to establish a new market, but it has not yet been possible to do so.

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported during each of the last five years amounts to

Year.	£
1909	13,752
1910	30,271
1911	32,048
1912	24,236
1913	39,023

The principal minor exports were trocas shell (£13,792); molasses (£10,447); hides and pelts (£1,997); Beche-de-mer (£1,766); maize (£1,730); pearl-shell (£1,256); and timber (£1,070). The cultivation of cotton, once a very valuable industry in Fiji, is being encouraged, especially amongst the free Indian population, which is supplied free of cost with the necessary seed, and whose cotton is purchased locally by the Agricultural Department. It is obviously desirable from many points of view that the agricultural interests of the Colony should not be restricted to sugar cane, coconuts, and bananas.

The total imports and exports for each of the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1909	636,250	947,136
1910	829,029	1,005,818
1911	854,193	1,275,235
1912	940,044	1,058,960
1913	903,968	1,425,940

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs duties levied.
	£
1909	106,357
1910	131,691
1911	150,165
1912	165,488
1913	150,063

The bulk of the Colony's trade continues to be conducted with or through Australia and New Zealand. The total trade (imports and exports) during 1913 was distributed amongst the various countries as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom	194,046
British Possessions:	
New South Wales	935,933
New Zealand	854,452
Victoria	100,534
Canada	87,497
India	57,405
Hong Kong	7,530
Other British Possessions	3,794
Total British Possessions	£2,047,145 equal to

87·8 per cent. of total trade of the Colony.

Foreign Countries:	£
United States of America	52,842
Germany	17,932
Japan	10,204
France	1,538
Belgium	1,395
Sweden	1,269
Samoa	908
Other Foreign Countries	2,629
Total Foreign Countries	£88,717 equal to

3·9 per cent. of total trade of the Colony.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 11·5 per cent. in 1912 to 8·3 per cent. in 1913; that with British Possessions rose from 83·8 per cent. to 87·8 per cent.; and that with foreign countries fell from 4·7 per cent. to 3·9 per cent.

LAND GRANTS.

The following is a statement of land alienations, which shows approximately the position in regard to land as it stood on the 31st December, 1913, as compared with the position at the end of 1912 :—

	1912. Acres.	1913. Acres.
Crown Grants :		
Area held by the Crown	9,865	9,865
Area held by settlers on crown grants ..	418,149	418,162
	428,014	428,027
Native Grants :		
Area held by the Crown on native grants	52,338	52,338
Area held by settlers on native grants ..	38,745	38,947
Total area held on native grant ..	91,083	91,285
Native Leaseholds :		
Area held by Indians on native leaseholds	23,140	25,984
Area held by Europeans on native leaseholds	140,478	163,453
Total area of native leaseholds held by settlers	163,618	189,437
Crown Leaseholds :		
Area held by Indians on Crown leaseholds	3,870	3,885
Area held by Europeans on Crown leaseholds	37,364	37,374
	41,234	41,259

It will thus be seen that the alienated lands of the Colony are as follows :—

	Acres.
Crown grants	428,027
Native grants	91,286
Total freehold area	519,313
Add native leasehold area ..	189,437
Add crown leasehold area ..	42,259
Total alienated area	750,009

The total area of the Colony is 4,758,400 acres.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1913 there were introduced into the Colony 3,111 Indian immigrants, as against 3,402 during the previous year. The total population of East Indians serving under indenture on the last day of 1913 was 15,961 (male adults, 10,060; female adults, 3,557; and children, 2,344), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 35,914. The proportion of female to males of the Indian population was

Adult females	43·09 to 100 males.
Non-adult females	90·87 to 100 males.

The number of charges for breaches of labour laws laid in each of the past five years was as follows:—

1909	1,924
1910	1,911
1911	1,520
1912	1,256
1913	990

The steady decrease in the number of charges laid is very satisfactory.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed during the year 1913. The most important of these were:—

Ordinance No. VI. (The Diseases of Plants Ordinance).—This Ordinance provides for the prohibition of importation of trees, plants, fruit or seeds or any portions thereof to be determined by the Governor in Council; for the making of regulations for the inspection of trees, plants, etc.; for preventing the introduction of diseases; for preventing the outbreak or dissemination of diseases; for fumigation; for spraying or other treatment of growing or other trees or plants; for the destruction of condemned trees or plants and seeds; and generally for carrying into effect the provisions of the Ordinance; and for the appointment of inspectors.

Ordinance No. XIII. (The Companies Ordinance, 1913).—This Ordinance provides for the registration of companies, audit of accounts, winding up of companies, etc., and is based on the Imperial Companies (Consolidated) Act of 1908.

Ordinance No. XIV. (The Forests Ordinance).—This Ordinance makes provision for proclamation of forest reserves, appointment of forest officers, and the making by the Governor in Council of regulations with regard to any forest reserve.

Ordinance No. XVII. (The Pensions Amendment Ordinance).—This Ordinance makes provision for the withdrawal of pension to a public officer who, without the permission in writing of the Governor, becomes, on his final retirement from the service of the Colony a director or a servant in the Colony of any company the principal part of whose business is any way directly concerned with the Colony.

Ordinance No. XX. (The Prisons Ordinance).—This Ordinance repealed the Prisons Ordinance, 1884, and enacted fresh provisions more in consonance with those in force in other Colonies, and provided for the " mark " system, not hitherto in force in Fiji.

Ordinance No. XXVII. (The District Commissioners Ordinance).—This Ordinance substituted for the title of Stipendiary Magistrate the title of District Commissioner, as being more appropriate to the duties of that officer, whose work is as much that of an executive as of a legal nature, and provided that, unless the Governor otherwise orders, those officers shall be *ex-officio* sub-accountants and deputy commissioners of stamps. It provided also that the Governor may from time to time assign to any District Commissioner such further powers and duties of any department as may to him seem necessary or expedient in the public interest.

Ordinance No. XXX. (The Government Currency Notes Ordinance).—This Ordinance provides for the issue of Government currency notes and for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners of Currency. It provides that a currency note shall be legal tender in the Colony for the amount expressed therein; for a note guarantee fund; for an investments and depreciation fund; for keeping of accounts; and for such other matters as are generally to be found in an Ordinance of the kind.

V.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the appointment of School Boards, partly elected by the ratepayers and partly nominated, within constituted areas. There are at present School Boards in the towns of Suva and Levuka. The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the school funds of each district, consisting of (1) a grant from general revenue on a fixed scale on the average attendance and (2) an education rate on property within the school areas. During the year 1913 the grant from general revenue to the Suva Public School amounted to £457 6*s*. 6*d*., and the education rate was £560; the grant from general revenue to the Levuka Public School was £409 6*s*. 6*d*., and the education rate was £400. In addition to those grants from general revenue further assistance was granted to the Levuka Public School to enable the Board to employ additional teachers, especially with the view of assisting the Board to provide technical instruction. At these schools education is free to children living within the school districts between the age of six and fourteen years. Children above the age of fourteen are charged a small fee, and children from outside the school areas are received into the school on payment of fees. At Levuka there is a boarding establishment in connexion with the school. The headmaster at the Suva Public School, by arrangement with the Victorian authorities, is an officer seconded from the Victorian Education Department, generally for three years. The two schools are inspected annually by an inspector from Victoria whose services are paid for from general revenue. The Suva Public School has a staff of six teachers, and the average attendance of scholars in 1913 was 142. The Levuka Public School has a staff of three teachers and the average attendance of scholars in 1913 was 118. The Roman Catholic Mission provides three schools for the education of European children. The number of children attending these schools in 1913 was 210. The education of natives is conducted almost entirely by the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions. The former body have 983 schools with a total attendance of 16,532. These figures include six minor schools set apart for Indian children. The Roman Catholic Mission have 121 schools, and in 1913 there were 2,327 native children on their school rolls. At the Davuilevu School, conducted by the Methodist Mission, technical instruction is provided with most promising results. The Government maintain at Nasinu a school for the education of Fijian boys, at which there are two European masters and one native master. The school is a boarding school, and boys are selected from the various provinces. During 1913 there were 72 boys in residence. At Loma Loma, in the Lau Province, there is a Provincial School for boys in charge of a European master. A contribution of £300 a year is paid from general revenue toward the maintenance of this school, the balance being contributed by the province.

The general question of education is now receiving very careful consideration, and it is hoped that primary education will be brought under the supervision of the Government and that it will be possible to provide, especially for European children, both boys and girls, secondary education by the establishment of secondary schools directly under Government control. With few exceptions European children now leave school at the age of fourteen, their education then being considered as finished. The cost to general revenue of education now and in the past has been exceedingly small, but so important a question as education demands, and will doubtless receive, more generous treatment in the future.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with a resident medical officer in charge, who is assisted by a junior medical officer. The nursing staff consists of a matron, a senior and junior staff nurse, a graduate nurse, and six probationers. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1913 was 1,550, of whom 150 were

Europeans. The expenditure on the hospital for 1913, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £4,165 8*s*. 1*d*., and the revenue was £1,321 16*s*. 6*d*. It has been decided to build a new hospital in ferro-concrete on a different site.

There is at Levuka a branch hospital under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a European and a native nurse.

There are eight provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers. The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1913 was 4,315.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent, and the Chief Medical Officer is a member of the Board of Visitors. The staff consists of a European head attendant and a European matron, with native attendants. The asylum is visited at fixed times by a Board of Visitors consisting of official and unofficial members. During 1913 there were 23 admissions and eight discharges, and there were 34 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a medical superintendent, who is assisted by a European medical officer, five European and three Fijian nursing sisters, and three native medical practitioners. On the 31st December, 1913, there were 236 lepers in the asylum. The work of collecting and transporting all lepers in the Colony is being accomplished as rapidly as circumstances will permit. The island of Makogai was purchased, and is being used, exclusively for the segregation of lepers. The expenditure on the asylum during 1913 was £5,134 1*s*. During the first few months of their residence on the island the patients are not unnaturally unsettled, but when once they have settled down, as they do quickly, they appear to be contented, as indeed is not surprising, as every attention possible is given to their comfort by the devoted staff. The buildings and general surroundings are excellent, and every care is given to sanitation. The whole island is a model of orderliness, and the Medical Department and the staff are to be congratulated highly on the result of their efforts.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and surpervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. Unfortunately, Fijians are not very successful as guardians of the law, and much as one may regret, from a spectacular point of view, their replacement by other coloured races, the result is inevitable. The cost of the force in 1913 was £12,769.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a keeper, with a European gaoler and overseers and native warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers, who are generally the European police police officers stationed in the various districts. The gaols of the Colony are under the control of the Inspector-General of Prisons. The number of persons committed in 1913 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 439 as against 621 for the previous year and 652 for 1911.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 3,106, as against 4,322 in 1912. Of the reported offences 486 were offences against the person, 298 larceny, 112 offences against property (other than larceny), 909 against good order, 47 relating to the carrying out of laws, 468 against revenue, and 786 against public welfare.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last five years :—

1909	6,571
1910	6,146
1911	6,160
1912	4,322
1913	3,106

The total number of complaints against indentured immigrants in 1913 was 990, as compared with 1,256 in 1912. 694 cases were heard in Provincial Courts under the Native (Fijian) Regulations.

There are 21 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 316 male and three female prisoners, making a total of 323 confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities of these being :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
European..	1	—	1
Indian	202	3	205
Polynesian	9	—	9
Fijian	103	—	103
Half caste	1	—	1
	316	3	319

All prisoners sentenced to terms of six months or more imprisonment or to penal servitude are confined in the Suva Gaol, only short-sentence prisoners being confined in the provincial gaols. Shot drill as a punishment has been abolished, and a system of marks for good behaviour introduced with excellent results. Considerable progress is being made in the establishment of the separate system of confinement in all the prisons of the Colony. The Suva gaol has been almost entirely rebuilt on modern lines and great improvements effected in regard to separate confinement and discipline of prisoners and to the sanitary arrangements of the gaol.

The total value of the work performed by prison labour at the Suva gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was £4,982, as against a total expenditure of £3,992. The value of each unit is placed at 2*s*. per diem. Prisoners are employed principally on public works, but a certain number is taught mat and brush making, printing and tinsmithing.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1913 as compared with the population at the census taken on the 2nd April, 1911 :—

	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimated Population on 31st December, 1913.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ..	2,403	1,304	3,707	2,818	1,412	4,244
Half-Castes ..	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,251	1,224	2,500
Indians ..	26,073	14,213	40,286	33,713	18,962	52,675
Polynesians ..	2,429	329	2,758	2,423	345	2,768
Rotumans ..	1,043	1,133	2,176	—	—	1,976
Fijians.. ..	46,110	40,986	87,096	46,115	42,133	88,380
Chinese ..	276	29	305	434	32	466
Others ..	457	355	812	363	364	827

Note.—Total European population includes fourteen Europeans at Rotuma; sexes not shown.

Total half-caste population includes 25 half-castes at Rotuma; sexes not shown.

Total other population includes 100 others at Rotuma; sexes not shown.

Total population at Census, 1911	139,541
„ „ 31st December, 1913	153,704
Increase	14,163

Since the estimate of the native population was made the figures given in the report by the Native Commissioner on the Vital Statistics of the Native (Fijian) population have been received, which shows that the native population on the 31st December last was: 46,755 males and 41,625 females, or a total of 88,380. An increase of 553 occurred during the year 1913. The following table shows the increases and decreases during the last eight years :—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1906	33	—
1907	—	97
1908	85	—
1909	276	—
1910	—	230
1911	—	53
1912	588	—
1913	553	—
	1,535	
	380	
A net increase during the last eight years of	1,155	

IX.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1913 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 122·519 inches as against 115·046 inches in 1912 and 108·346 inches in 1911. The greatest rainfall in any one day throughout the year was 9·549 inches on the 7th March. The highest temperature recorded was 89·1° F. on the 3rd April, and the lowest temperature 62·1° F. on the 17th August.

The following is a statement showing the average rainfall throughout the Colony :—

Station.	Total for 1913.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1913.
Rabi	117·87	152·02
Wainunu	154·42	150·60
Navua	121·83	144·20
Muanaweni	121·35	136·21
Naitasiri	136·95	132·78
Nadarivatu	141·46	130·00
Rotumah	123·75	129·25
Nasinu Experimental Station	114·57	128·00
Nasinu Estate	120·87	118·73
Savu Savu Bay	102·74	110·37
Suva	122·54	109·07
Nausori	126·50	107·27
Vucimaca	104·96	103·00
Taveuni	75·39	102·51
Levuka	72·87	93·68
Baulailai	61·45	81·09
Rakiraki	69·09	80·17
Labasa	72·59	77·75
Kadavu	64·48	75·27
Ba	75·72	78·01
Munia	65·47	70·08
Lautoka Estate	58·97	61·92
Lautoka Experimental Station	57·92	67·15
Makogai	62·25	57·25
Nadi	53·71	56·61
*Salialevu (Taveuni)	167·34	——
*Colo East	125·01	——
*Bua	91·59	——
*Buca Bay	68·36	——

* Records for one year only.

X.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Canadian-Australian line ; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited ; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company ; and occasionally by vessels of other Companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian-Australian line to and from Vancouver, and generally once in every four weeks English mails are received and despatched via Australia. Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Interisland communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels. Some of the outlying districts are poorly served. Endeavour is being made to improve the local mail services.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian Australian line, and the vessels are exempted from certain dues. A subsidy of £4,500 is paid to the owners of the S.S. "Amra," which carries on an interinsular service.

The following statement shows the volumes of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last three years :—

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers, Books, Packets, etc.	Parcels.	Total.
1911	1,413,245	814,907	20,492	2,248,644
1912	1,417,859	806,265	24,946	2,249,070
1913	1,482,321	766,731	23,415	2,272,467

The total value of money orders and postal orders issued and paid in the Colony during each of the last three years was as follows :—

Year.	Issued in the Colony. Value. £	Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1911	33,526	9,998
1912	34,890	11,370
1913	35,536	8,369

There is telegraphic and telephonic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, via Nausori, on the Rewa River, Nadarivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatioka. There are telephone services in the towns of Suva and Levuka and the district of Nausori and between Suva and Navua, a distance of 29 miles, controlled by the Government.

Ther eare three wireless stations in the group at Suva, Labasa, and Taviuni erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 1913 the trade of the Colony suffered from the effects of hurricanes during the last two or three years and was restricted owing to quarantine regulations. On the whole, however, trade was good and has since resumed its normal state with a decided tendency to improve.

The Native Lands Commission continued its enquiries into the ownership and boundaries of native lands, which are being surveyed according to the boundaries of each proprietary unit. When this work has been completed it will be possible to state definitely who the owners of any particular lands are. The absence of this knowledge has caused endless trouble in the past and has created many difficulties.

Endeavours have been made, unfortunately so far with but little success, to obtain from the natives lists of lands suitable for settlement which, in accordance with the repeated promises of the natives, are to be handed over to the Government to be leased on their behalf. When these lands have been handed over they will be valued for rental purposes, scheduled and advertised, so that persons who wish to obtain land may know without delay what lands are available.

During 1913 Messrs. McNeill and Chiminlal visited Fiji to enquire into the working of the system of indentured Indian immigrant labourers and to report to the Government of India. It is not yet known what the result of this visit may be, but it is hoped that the system will be allowed to continue, as the agricultural prosperity of the Colony must depend for many years to come on the supply of labourers from India.

The Suva harbour works and the drainage works progressed satisfactorily. It is expected that it will be possible to berth vessels at the new wharf within the next four months. The reclamation of the foreshore by soapstone spoil excavated from the hills has been carried on for some months, but the dredge, with which part of the reclamation work is to be done, has not yet commenced work. Many of the main sewers in connection with the drainage works have been laid, and good progress has been made with the necessary buildings.

A report by the Consulting Engineer on the proposed Rewa Valley Railway was received, and has been considered by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council. The matter is still under consideration.

The question of a loan for road construction throughout the Colony is being considered. The absence of communications by roads is a great drawback to development and to the encouragement of tourist traffic, which, situated as the Colony is, might become a valuable asset.

The trigonometrical survey of Vanua Levu was continued throughout the year and satisfactory progress was made. It is now proposed to connect the surveys of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

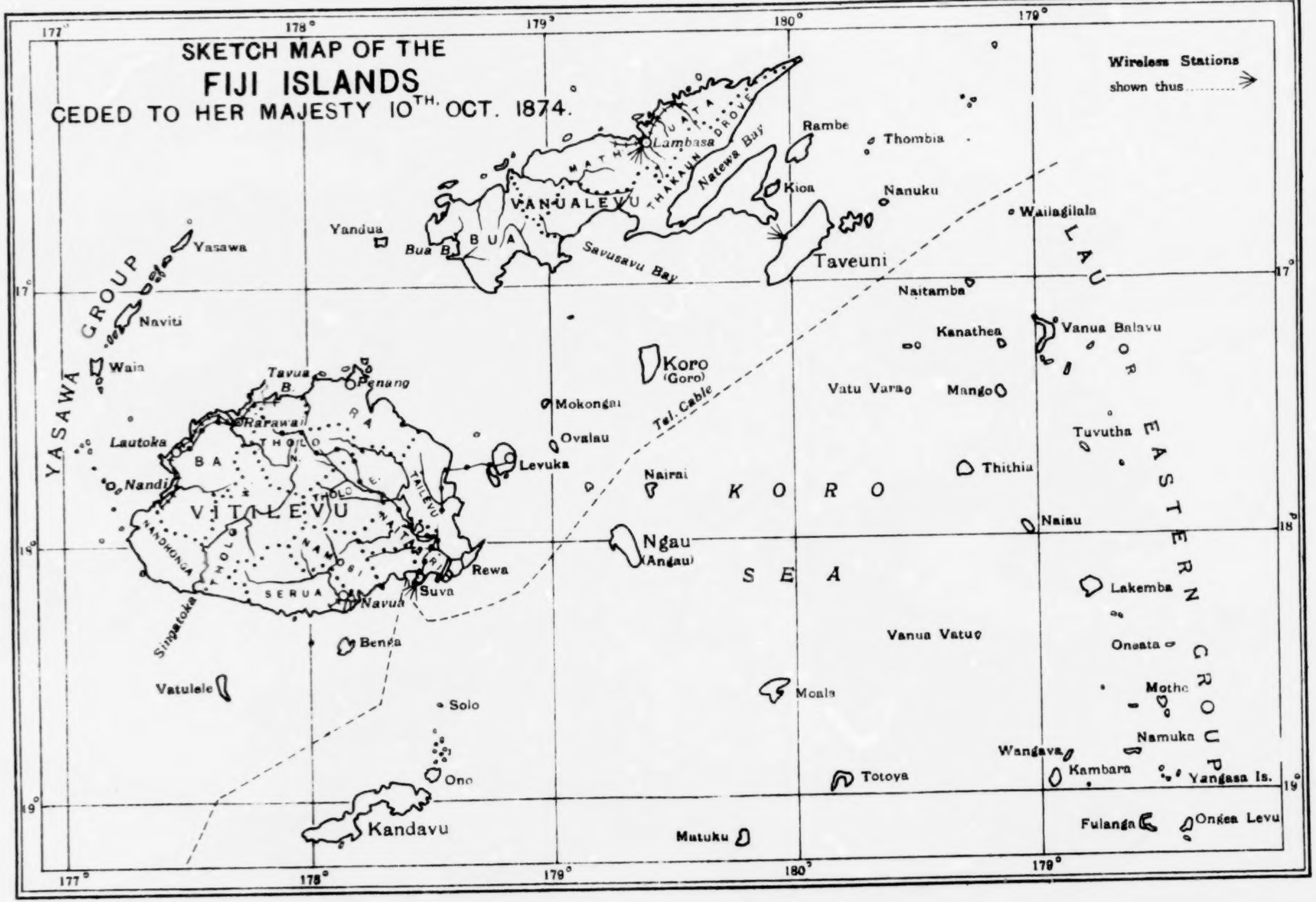
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1213
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories, Gold Coast	"
808	Sierra Leone	"
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.



SKETCH MAP OF THE FIJI ISLANDS CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH. OCT. 1874.

Wireless Stations shown thus
177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
Naviti
Waia
Lautoka
Nandi
Yandua
Bua B.
BUA
VANUALEVU
MATHUATA
Lambasa
THAKAUNDROVE
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
Rambe
Kioa
Thombia
Nanuku
Taveuni
Wailagilala
Naitamba
Kanathea
Vanua Balavu
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP
Tavua B.
Penang
Rarawai
BA
THOLO
RA
TAILEVU
VITILEVU
NAITASIRI
NAMOSI
NANDRONGA
SERUA
Singatoka
Navua
Suva
Rewa
Levuka
Ovalau
Mokongai
Koro (Goro)
Tel. Cable
Nairai
Ngau (Angau)
KORO SEA
Vatu Vara
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
Naiau
Lakemba
Oneata
Mothe
Namuka
Wangava
Kambara
Yangasa Is.
Fulanga
Ongea Levu
Vanua Vatu
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
Benga
Vatulele
Solo
Ono
Kandavu

C.O. Nº47.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1914.

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1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 848.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913, see No. 811.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1915.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 848.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 811.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
27th April, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a Report by Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of Fiji for the year 1914.

I have, etc.,

BICKHAM ESCOTT

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £279,844, or £13,813 more than the revenue for 1913 and £5,652 less than the original estimate of the year's receipts. The principal decrease in the actual receipts for 1914, as compared with the estimates, was £17,585 under the head of Customs.

The expenditure for 1914, exclusive of expenditure on loan account, which amounted to £66,585, was estimated at £306,779. The actual expenditure, exclusive of that on loan account, amounted to £301,351, or £21,507 in excess of the receipts for the year. The expenditure on loan account—viz., £66,585—was on account of the Suva Harbour Works and the Suva Drainage Works, which will be charged eventually to loan account. The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1914, stood at £106,741.

The total revenue and expenditure (exclusive of that on loan account) for each of the last five years is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1910	211,952	5	2	236,661	0	3
1911	240,394	14	9	265,347	8	8
1912	283,945	19	1	251,744	14	7
1913	266,031	4	1	258,792	19	1
1914	279,844	13	9	301,351	12	7

The following table shows the amounts collected under the several heads of revenue:—

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue, 1914.			Revenue, 1913.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs.. ..	155,664	19	5	154,674	15	4	990	4	1	—		
Port, Harbour, wharf and Light Dues ..	14,402	14	4	13,351	8	7	1,051	5	9	—		
Native Taxes ..	16,205	7	6	16,207	8	5	—			2	0	11
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	36,592	0	7	32,482	12	10	4,109	7	9	—		
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid..	26,987	16	3	25,121	17	8	1,865	18	7	—		
Post Office ..	12,088	3	3	11,002	19	2	1,085	4	1	—		
Rent	5,668	11	4	5,574	19	10	93	11	6	—		
Interest	5,972	7	5	5,470	14	10	501	12	7	—		
Miscellaneous ..	6,071	5	2	2,033	15	5	4,037	9	9	—		
Land Sales and Premia on Leases.. ..	191	8	6	110	12	0	80	16	6	—		
Total ..£	279,844	13	9	266,031	4	1	13,815	10	7	2	0	11

The following table shows the expenditure under the several heads of expenditure:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1914.			Expenditure, 1913.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on account of Public Debt.. ..	19,243	15	2	17,197	17	10	2,045	17	4	—		
Pensions ..	9,708	16	10	8,312	17	7	1,395	19	3	—		
The Governor and Legislature	4,364	9	0	4,484	17	3	—			120	8	3
Do. Special Expenditure	146	19	7	74	11	11	72	7	8	—		
Colonial Secretary	4,662	11	8	4,868	9	4	—			205	17	8
Native	9,015	17	7	7,917	5	2	1,098	12	5	—		
Treasury and Savings Bank	3,949	0	6	2,873	4	11	1,075	15	7	—		
Do. Special Expenditure	311	1	2	—			311	1	2	—		
Customs ..	5,995	3	6	6,204	16	11	—			209	13	5
Do. Special Expenditure	37	9	4	13	10	3	23	19	1	—		
Audit	1,910	18	4	1,501	10	2	409	8	2	—		
Port and Marine	3,888	14	10	3,670	15	0	217	19	10	—		
Do. Special Expenditure	122	13	5	330	10	1	—			207	16	8
Lands	4,662	0	10	4,929	12	6	—			267	11	8
Do. Special Expenditure	2,204	1	7	3,429	0	11	—			1,224	19	4
Legal	18,152	7	9	16,718	11	1	1,433	16	8	—		
Carried forward £	88,376	1	1	82,527	10	11	8,084	17	2	2,236	7	0

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1914.			Expenditure, 1913.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	88,376	1	1	82,527	10	11	8,084	17	2	2,236	7	0
Constabulary ..	13,315	8	8	12,386	15	4	928	13	4	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	158	0	3	382	5	8	——			224	5	5
Prisons.. ..	6,466	15	8	6,034	6	10	432	8	10	——		
Medical.. ..	18,618	7	1	20,001	15	8	——			1,383	8	7
Do. Special Expenditure	475	2	8	637	7	7	——			162	4	11
Hospitals and Asylums ..	10,207	17	6	8,579	5	10	——			1,628	11	8
Do. Special Expenditure	33	19	7	193	15	9	——			159	16	2
Education ..	3,262	8	0	3,026	19	1	235	8	11	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	50	0	0	——			50	0	0	——		
Transport ..	5,148	18	0	4,626	18	5	521	19	7	——		
Fiji Rifle Association ..	1,999	11	11	2,013	2	5	——			13	10	6
Miscellaneous ..	31,931	2	2	18,250	7	6	13,680	14	8	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	1,956	5	4	2,320	17	7	——			364	12	3
Post and Telegraph ..	21,179	1	9	20,846	4	7	332	17	2	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	4,227	0	1	4,832	17	0	——			605	16	11
Agricultural ..	4,194	4	5	3,421	9	4	772	15	1	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	1,177	12	3	418	2	5	759	9	10	——		
Immigration ..	5,712	0	7	7,433	8	7	——			1,721	8	0
Do. Special Expenditure	37	7	4	——			37	7	4	——		
Printing ..	3,475	16	6	3,401	8	7	74	7	11	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	228	5	10	——			228	5	10	——		
Government Store	266	14	9	334	11	5	——			67	16	8
Works (Establishment) ..	13,513	9	3	11,687	15	1	1,825	14	2	——		
Do. Special Expenditure	55	2	3	——			55	2	3	——		
Public Works, Recurrent ..	22,261	18	5	20,996	19	11	1,264	18	6	——		
	258,328	11	4	234,354	5	6	30,913	12	3	6,939	6	5
Public Works, Extraordinary	43,022	7	7	24,438	8	8	18,583	18	11	——		
Total ..£	301,350	18	11	258,792	14	2	49,497	11	2	6,939	6	5
Expenditure against Loan Account ..												
(I) Suva Harbour Works ..	49,872	17	7	52,369	8	6	——			2,496	10	11
(II) Suva Drainage Works ..	16,712	16	1	13,365	16	5	3,346	19	8	——		
Grand Total .. £	367,936	12	7	324,527	19	1	52,844	10	10	9,435	17	4

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England.

The nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December, 1914, was £117,670 11*s.* 8*d.*, the cost of which was £117,707 11*s.*

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1914:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Loan without interest	20,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	39,900	0	0
	£60,715	1	3

as against £71,915 1*s.* 3*d.* on the last day of the preceding year. The public debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £11,200.

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a sinking fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

The currency and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1914, being £26,450. Arrangements were made during 1914 for the issue of Government currency notes. The Commissioners of Currency fixed the value of notes to be issued at £20,000, the denomination of the notes being £1, £5 £10 and £20. Arrangements are being made to increase the number of £1 and £5 notes issued.

Owing to the difficulty and expense of importing gold in consequence of the war and the fear that gold might be hoarded, it was arranged that the notes issued by the banks of New Zealand and New South Wales should be accepted at the Treasury and at the offices sub-accountants in the country districts until such time as a sufficien number of Government notes was available for circulation.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office,

Suva, at Levuka, Loma Loma, Lautoka, Makogai, and Labasa. During the year 396 accounts were opened and 272 closed, as against 426 and 199 respectively in 1913. At the close of the year 883 accounts remained open, an amount of £15,631 remaining to the credit of depositors, as against £15,771 at the close of the previous year. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was thus £17 14*s*. 1*d*. The total amount deposited was £16,490 12*s*. 10*d*., which exceeded the amount deposited in 1913 by £415 7*s*. 2*d*. Interest earned on investments amounted to £495 10*s*. 4*d*., as compared with £360 2*s*. 1*d*. in 1913. Interest paid or credited to depositors was £353 17*s*. 9*d*. Incidental expenses amounted to £20 6*s*. A sum of £25 was paid to the officer who attends on certain evenings during the year at the General Post Office, Suva, to receive deposits. No other expense is incurred for management, which is in the hands of civil servants as part of their duties.

The bank's funds to the extent of £13,500 are invested in England, to which funds in excess of the sums likely to be required in the Colony for bank purposes are remitted as they accrue.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities and School Boards :—

Year.	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1910	5,609	4,933	2,382	1,875
1911	5,772	7,081	2,068	2,266
1912	7,229	8,605	4,582	3,597
1913	7,595	8,063	3,096	3,172
1914	9,675	8,488	2,286	2,158

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1910	930	859	836	786
1911	1,354	1,275	683	882
1912	1,088	1,020	1,069	1,065
1913	1,132	1,179	1,025	1,001
1914	1,180	1,136	1,093	988

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during each of the years 1913 and 1914 :—

Nature of Import.	1913.	1914.
	£	£
Bacon and hams	4,054	3,977
Bags and sacks	37,966	49,527
Beer	6,929	8,698
Books	1,993	2,485
Boots and shoes	9,241	8,122
Biscuits, flour, sharps, and pollard ..	67,920	59,973
Bran	5,749	6,361
Butter and ghee	20,310	19,501
Cement	9,214	8,401
Cigars and cigarettes	3,321	4,432
Coal	25,940	27,359
Cordage and rope	4,696	4,598
Cutlery	2,836	3,110
Drapery	104,049	138,726
Drugs	7,304	8,135
Fish	11,871	10,716
Furniture	4,104	6,191
Galvanised iron goods	21,507	15,737
Glassware and crockery	4,261	3,738
Hardware	67,103	59,924
Iron—black, pig, and scrap, rails, fish plates, &c.	21,004	18,420
Jewellery	5,100	1,013
Leatherware	6,650	7,284
Live-stock	9,890	14,390
Machinery	50,776	47,821
Machinery—agricultural	3,839	6,428
Manure	14,379	22,209
Meats	22,838	18,160
Oils	29,026	28,821
Paints	5,531	5,572
Rice	20,865	14,134
Soap	2,214	2,281
Spirits	12,173	12,701
Stationery	6,756	7,646
Sugar	5,507	5,509
Timber	57,640	50,681
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes) ..	9,395	10,076
Vegetables and fruit	10,200	13,344
Wines	2,136	2,874

The items showing increases of note are drapery, bags and sacks, manure, vegetables and fruit, live-stock, and agricultural machinery. Imports of drapery increased in value from £104,049 in 1913 to £138,726 in 1914.

The most notable decreases occurred on biscuits, flour, etc., meats, and rice ; galvanised iron, hardware and iron goods ; machinery and timber.

The decrease in the case of biscuits, flour, etc., and meats may be regarded to some extent as an outcome of the war; in the case of rice the tendency is for the importation to fall off owing to the locally grown article being plentiful and cheaper. The decrease in the case of timber is due to the more extensive use of local products. The apparent decrease in the case of jewellery may be regarded as mainly artificial. The bulk of the jewellery imported is forwarded through the parcels post, and a new system has been adopted by which the value of goods imported by that means is shown in one amount instead of being classified under the various heads.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and value of these products exported during each of the last five years being as follows:—

Year.	Sugar		Copra		Green Fruit. Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1910	61,761	669,432	13,078	258,841	47,302
1911	72,834	797,274	16,337	294,245	151,668
1912	61,728	671,713	13,710	242,073	120,510
1913	94,710	1,041,927	7,929	176,741	168,249
1914	92,112	1,005,643	9,429	148,372	201,938

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, were as follows:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.	Bags.
1910 ..	271,024 ..	81,225 ..	—
1911 ..	897,345 ..	219,551 ..	—
1912 ..	589,743 ..	209,772 ..	—
1913 ..	922,745 ..	277,468 ..	—
1914 ..	973,664 ..	399,629 ..	106

The reason for the changes in these figures for the year 1914, as compared with those for 1913, is discussed in the later paragraphs devoted to sugar cane, coconuts, and bananas respectively.

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported during each of the last five years amounts to:—

Year.	£
1910	30,271
1911	32,048
1912	24,664
1913	39,023
1914	33,912

The principal minor exports were Sici-shell, £13,244; molasses, £7,323; beche-de-mer, £2,831; hides and pelts, £1,848; maize, £1,375.

The total imports and exports for each of the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1910	829,029	1,005,818
1911	854,193	1,275,235
1912	940,014	1,058,960
1913	903,968	1,425,940
1914	911,274	1,389,865

In addition, goods to the value of £15,964 were imported through the medium of the parcel post, so that the correct value of imports for 1914 was really £927,238. Specie to the value of £33,782 is included in the figure £911,274.

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs duties levied.
	£
1910	131,691
1911	150,165
1912	165,488
1913	150,063
1914	152,434

The bulk of the Colony's trade continued to be conducted with or through Australia and New Zealand. The total trade (imports and exports) during 1914 was distributed amongst the various countries as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom	209,946
British Possessions:	
New South Wales	767,511
New Zealand	574,557
Canada	312,622
Hong Kong	130,625
Victoria	111,172
India	42,835
Other British Possessions	3,072

Total British Possessions .. .. £1,942,394, equal to 84·4 per cent. of total trade of the Colony.

Foreign Countries:	£
United States of America	102,113
Germany	18,981
Japan	17,388
China	3,055
Belgium	1,252
Norway	951
France	863
Holland	732
Sweden	529
Samoa	526
Other Foreign Countries	2,360

Total Foreign Countries .. £148,800, equal to 6·5 per cent. of total trade of the Colony.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom rose from 8·3 per cent. in 1913 to 9·1 per cent. in 1914, that with British Possessions fell from 87·8 per cent. to 84·4 per cent.; and that with foreign countries rose from 3·9 per cent. to 6·5 per cent.

The increased trade with Canada, Hong Kong, and the United States of America is accounted for by large shipments of sugar, due to the abnormal conditions prevailing.

It is a curious feature that the figures of the trade with Germany showed an increase over those of 1913, notwithstanding the war. The real effect of the war in this connection will be felt in 1915.

The falling off in the trade with Australia and New Zealand is partly due to large direct imports from the United Kingdom and also to the fact that a considerable proportion of the sugar and copra, which previously had been shipped to Australia and New Zealand, was exported instead to Canada, the United States of America, and Hong Kong.

AGRICULTURE.

Note.—The following figures do not include native cultivation, and so far as Europeans are concerned can only be taken as estimates owing to the disinclination of some of the planters to furnish particulars of their cultivation.

Sugar Cane.

The number of acres under cane in 1914 was 62,851, as against 48,208 in 1913, and the number of tons of cane produced was 874,164 in 1914, as against 736,992 in 1913.

Notwithstanding these increases the export of sugar decreased from 94,710 tons in 1913 to 92,112 tons in 1914, which is to be attributed mainly to unfavourable climatic conditions.

Coconuts.

The area under coconuts cultivated by Europeans was estimated at 42,492 acres in 1914, as against 32,915 acres in 1913. Returns from the Lau District are included for the year 1914, and account for 5,297 acres of the apparent extension of the area under coconuts.

The copra industry, it is satisfactory to note, has improved. The exports for 1913 had been reduced considerably as a result of a storm affecting the yield of plantations, and the quantity exported may be expected to reach the normal rate before long. During the early stages of the war, the local price for copra was very low and little or none was offered for export. Later on, as the market price recovered somewhat, shipments began again and the industry had settled down before the end of the year.

Bananas.

The area under bananas cultivated by Europeans was estimated at 6,667 acres in 1914, as against 6,608 acres in 1913. A considerable amount of this fruit is also grown on native plantations. The area under bananas was increased considerably during 1914, and a corresponding rise in the exports was anticipated. This was realised only in a partial degree owing to the contraction of shipping facilities in consequence of the war.

Miscellaneous.

The estimated area under cotton in 1914 was 530 acres, as against 23·7 acres in 1913. Some progress has been made in encouraging Indians holding small leases to grow cotton.

In order to assist Indians in starting the industry, arrangements were made by which the cotton grown by them is purchased and ginned by the Government, and stored for ultimate delivery and sale to the British Cotton Growing Association. The amount of cotton so purchased in 1914 and early in this year amounted to about 10,000 lbs., all grown from seed distributed from the Government experimental station at Lautoka. There is some hope that the cultivation of cotton will be extended among East Indians settled in small areas of land in certain districts.

One thousand eight hundred and forty-six acres are under rubber, as against 1,760 acres in 1913. About 1$\frac{5}{8}$th ton of rubber was exported during the year and, as many plantations are now reaching the tapping stage, this item of export may be expected to increase in the near future.

LAND GRANTS.

The following is a statement of land alienations, which shows approximately the position in regard to land as it stood on the 31st December, 1914:—

Statement showing Total Land transferred to Settlers, both Freehold and Leasehold.

	No.	Area in acres.
Crown grants	1,331	413,496
Native grants	146	20,184
*Native leaseholds	3,995	141,038
Crown leaseholds	1,033	63,014
Total land alienated ..	6,505	637,732
Area held by the Crown open to settlement		92,518
Unalienated land, including land occupied by Fijians		4,028,150
Total area of the Colony ..		4,758,400

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1914 there were introduced into the Colony 1,572 Indian immigrants, as against 3,111 during the previous year. The drop in the figures arises from the fact that, owing to the expiry of a smaller number of indentures, applications by the planters of the Colony for the allotment of immigrants were low in comparison with those received during the previous year. The indentures of 1,600 immigrants expired during the year. It may be stated as another reason for the falling off of the number of immigrants introduced that in 1914 the completion of certain plantation railway work released a considerable number of indentured men, who were subsequently transferred to agricultural work on various plantations.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture on the last day of 1914 was 15,602 (male adults, 9,644; female adults, 3,430; and children, 2,528), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 37,754.

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* In addition to the above, 889 leaseholds, for about 23,383 acres, were approved, but the leases were not registered at the end of the year.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was :—

Total population, 55·77 females to every 100 males.
“Free” ,, 61·88 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Among the immigrants in 1914 the proportion of females to every 100 males was :—

Adults, 40·83 ; Children, 112·5. Total, 44·95.

The death-rates per cent. among indentured immigrants during the last five years are as follows :—

Year.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
1910	1·85	15·08	3·78
1911	1·35	12·04	2·74
1912	1·22	7·32	2·21
1913	·97	8·37	2·01
1914	·75	7·83	1·81

These figures show a progressive reduction in the death-rate, and the death-rates for 1914 are lower than in any previous year ; 194 children died during the year, and of these 156 were under the age of one year. The number of births during the year was 814. Special attention is being devoted to the question of effecting a reduction in the death-rate among children.

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in each of the past five years was as follows :—

		Sentences involving imprisonment with hard labour.	Sentences involving extension of indenture.
1910	1,717	449	446
1911	1,372	446	447
1912	1,135	186	447
1913	729	26	248
1914	854	30	157

To ameliorate the position caused by the increased prices of foodstuffs due to the war some planters supplied their labourers with land and seed rice free of cost. Later an arrangement was made by which labourers obtain supplies at *ante bellum* prices, the planters meeting the difference in cost out of their own pockets.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company has instituted a scheme for the settlement on ready-made farms of Indians serving the last year under indenture and for their occupation when their indentures have expired. Under this scheme during 1914 47 men in the Lautoka district raised cane to the value of £4,264.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Colony is divided into 17 provinces, each under the control of a European Provincial District Commissioner with a native assistant or a Roko Tui (chief native officer) for the purposes of native administration.

Each province is subdivided into districts, of which the head officers are natives who are Government officials and are termed Bulis.

Under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, there is established a Native Regulation Board consisting of the Governor (as president), and at least two members of the Legislative Council, and such other persons, not fewer than six in number, as shall be named by the Governor. This Board has powers to make regulations, having the force of law when approved by the Legislative Council, subject to disallowance by the King, with regard to all matters having reference to the good government and well-being of the native population. These regulations provide for the establishment of a council of the great chiefs of the Colony, and of provincial and district councils, and under these councils a measure of self government has been conceded to the native population with, on the whole, excellent results.

The Ordinance referred to above also provides for the establishment of native courts.

The Legislative Council, under Ordinance II. of 1913, assesses annually the total amount of native taxes to be levied on each province during the ensuing year. The provincial council of each province assesses the amount of native taxes to be levied by each district within its province. Under regulations made by the Governor in Council the Bulis of the several districts collect the tax from the natives in each district after there has been a further subdivision among the different native villages by the district councils. The total Government tax assessments for 1914 amounted to £16,205 17*s.* 6*d.*, and this sum was paid in full.

In addition to this annual direct tax, which is paid into general revenue, the natives in each province are required to contribute a sum annually to a provincial fund which is devoted to the payment of the salary of native provincial officers and to such other local purposes as the provincial council, with the approval of the Governor, shall by resolution prescribe.

The administration of the Island of Rotuma, a dependency of the Colony, is provided for by Ordinance I. of 1882. The island is administered by a Resident Commissioner, who is also the presiding officer of the Resident Commissioner's Court of Judicature. The Ordinance provides also for the Rotuma Regulation Board, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and any number of natives not exceeding ten, who are empowered to make regulations having the force of law, subject to approval of the Legislative Council and disallowance by the King, relating to the good government and well-being of the inhabitants.

A meeting of the Council of Chiefs took place during May and June of 1914. The meeting was well attended. For the first time a number of chiefs who do not occupy positions under Government were invited to attend. At the meeting a special effort was made to induce the Fijians to extend their agricultural methods and to adopt new products. This effort has met with some success, but progress can only be made very slowly. Generally speaking, the natives, being the landlords of the Colony, are so well off that there is little inducement for them to take a direct active interest in agricultural pursuits. For example, in the Ba Province the people are rapidly ceasing to be agriculturists, owing to the fact that they derive a considerable income from rents of their lands.

The amount paid to the natives in respect of rents of their lands leased to Europeans and East Indians during 1914 was £31,975.

The natives are very improvident with the monies thus received, and little of it is devoted to matters of a productive character. They, however, display great liberality in subscribing to patriotic funds.

The total native population at the end of 1914 was 88,775, showing a slight increase on the previous year.

V.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-two Ordinances were passed during the year 1914. The most important of these were :—

Ordinance No. I. (Opium Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance provides for the regulation of the importation, storage and disposal of opium, morphine, cocaine and similar drugs, declares the cultivation within the Colony of the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) to be unlawful, and prohibits the importation of prepared opium. It is the outcome of the adhesion of the Colony to the International Opium Convention signed at the Hague on 23rd January, 1912.

Ordinance No. VII. (Labourers' Transport Ordinance 1914).—This Ordinance empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations governing the transport by rail of labourers employed on plantations, in certain cases. It also imposes on owners of railways and tramways a liability for accidents and renders labourers liable to fines for disobeying instructions.

Ordinance No. VIII. (Widows and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance).—This Ordinance makes provision for the grant of pensions to the widows and children of officers employed in the service of the Government of the Colony and in the Gilbert and Ellice and Solomon Islands Protectorates. The management of the scheme is to rest with the Government of the Colony.

Ordinance No. IX. (General Loan and Inscribed Stock Amendment Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance makes certain amendments to the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1910.

Ordinance No. X. (Loans Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £150,000 for the construction of certain public works.

Ordinance No. XV. (Companies Amendment Ordinance, 1914).—The Ordinance makes various amendments to the Companies Ordinance, 1913.

Ordinance No. XVIII. (Rarawai-Kavanagasau Light Railway Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance gives effect to an agreement dated 19th August, 1914, between the Government of Fiji and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., Sydney, relating to the running of the line.

Ordinance No. XX. (Bank Notes Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance provides that the Governor in Council may declare by proclamation that notes issued by any bank in the Colony shall be legal tender, provided that they are of a value of not less than £1 sterling, and may suspend their redemption for a limited period.

Ordinance No. XXI. (Roads Consolidating Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance provides for the constitution of a central road board and provincial road boards, and provides for the management of public roads.

Ordinance No. XXII. (Copyright Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance supplements the Imperial Copyright Act of 1911 in its application to the Colony by providing for summary remedies.

Ordinance No. XXIII. (Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, 1914).—This Ordinance prohibits during the state of war trading with the German Empire and the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, together with all colonies and dependencies thereof; and provides for its extension to other nations by proclamation by the Governor in Council.

Ordinance No. XXX. (Defence Force Ordinance, 1914).—The Ordinance provides for the composition, management, equipment and discipline of the Fiji Defence Force, and for the appointment of officers by the Governor. The Ordinance contains clauses relating to compulsory service which may be brought into force in any district by proclamation by the Governor.

VI.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the appointment of School Boards, partly elected by the ratepayers and partly nominated, within constituted areas. There are at present School Boards in the towns of Suva and Levuka. The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the school funds of each district, consisting of (1) a grant from general revenue on a fixed scale on the average attendance and (2) an education rate on property within the school areas.

During the year 1914 the contribution from general revenue in the shape of a capitation grant to the Suva Public School amounted to £444 6*s*. 8*d*., and there was a special grant of £50, while the school rates amounted to £593. In the case of the Levuka Public School the capitation grant amounted to £439 6*s*. 8*d*. and other grants from general revenue to £202 16*s*., while the education rate amounted to £400.

At these schools education is free to children living within the school districts between the age of six and fourteen years. Children above the age of fourteen are charged a small fee, and children from outside the school areas are received into the school on payment of fees. At Levuka there is a boarding establishment in connexion with the school. The headmaster at the Suva Public School, by arrangement with the Victorian authorities, is an officer seconded from the Victorian Education Department, generally for three years. The two schools are inspected annually by an inspector from Victoria, whose services are paid from general revenue.

The Suva Public School has a staff of five teachers, and the average attendance of scholars in 1914 was 126. The Levuka Public School has a staff of four teachers, and the average attendance of scholars in 1914 was 167.

The Roman Catholic Mission provides three schools for the education of European children. The number of children attending these schools in 1914 was 185.

The education of natives is conducted almost entirely by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. The former body have 970 schools with a total attendance of 16,428. There are also eleven Wesleyan Mission Indian Schools, with 490 scholars. The Roman Catholic Mission have 96 schools, and in 1914 there were 2,256 native children on their school rolls. At the Davuilevu School, conducted by the Methodist Mission, technical instruction is provided, with most promising results. The Government maintain at Nasinu a school for the education of Fijian boys, at which there are two European masters and one native master. The school is a boarding-school, and boys are selected from the various provinces. During 1914 there were 72 boys in residence. The expenditure on the school during 1914 amounted to £1,735 15*s*. At Loma Loma, in the Lau Province, there is a provincial school for boys, in charge of a European master. A contribution of £300 a year is paid from general revenue towards the maintenance of this school, the balance being contributed by the province.

The whole question of the system of education in Fiji was considered in 1914 by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council. The scheme laid down by the Committee was adopted unanimously by the Legislative Council and is still under consideration. The scheme contemplates Government direct control of the existing public schools, the formation of a Board of Education, and the provision of primary education in country districts for children of European descent; and makes provision for the improvement of the educational facilities open to Fijians and Indians and gives special attention to elementary schools for the children of East Indian immigrants.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with a Resident Medical Officer in charge, who is assisted by a junior Medical Officer. The nursing staff consists of a matron, a senior and a junior staff nurse, a graduate nurse, and six probationers. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1914 was 1,767, of whom 189 were Europeans. The expenditure on the hospital for 1914, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £4,647, and the revenue was £1,618.

There is at Levuka a branch hospital under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a European and a native nurse.

There are eleven provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers. The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1914 was 3,793.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities. There is separate accommodation for Europeans. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent, and the Chief Medical Officer is a member of the Board of Visitors. The staff consists of a European head attendant and a European matron, with native attendants. The asylum is visited at fixed times by a Board of Visitors consisting of official and unofficial members. During 1914 there were 27 admissions and 10 discharges, and there were 36 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a medical superintendent, who is assisted by a European Medical Officer, five European and three Fijian nursing sisters. On the 31st December, 1914, there were 279 lepers in the asylum.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1914 was £13,473.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a superintendent, with a European gaoler and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers, who are generally the European police officers stationed in the various districts. The gaols of the Colony are under the control of the Inspector-General of Prisons. The number of persons committed in 1914 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 531, as against 439 for the previous year and 621 for 1912. The number committed at Levuka was 86.

Some of the prisoners are employed outside the precincts of the gaols on works of a public character. Others of the prisoners at Suva Gaol are employed in making mats and brushes and tinsmithing. The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva Gaol exclusive of that employed in the prison service was £3,256 1*s.* 9*d.*, as against a total expenditure of £4,910 7*s.* 10*d.* The work performed on Government service is not paid for but is computed on the basis of 2*s.* per unit per diem.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 5,689, as against 5,728 in 1913. Of the reported offences 736 were offences against the person, 264 larceny, 195 offences against property (other than larceny). The total number of other offences was 2,926.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last five years :—

1910	6,146
1911	6,160
1912	5,429
1913	5,728
1914	5,689

The number of summary convictions was 4,121 and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 93.

The total number of complaints against indentured immigrants in 1914 was 1,159, as compared with 999 in 1913. 658 cases were heard in Provincial Courts under the Native (Fijian) Regulations.

There are 21 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 322 male and five female prisoners, making a total of 327 confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities of these being :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
European..	1	—	1
Indian	217	5	222
Polynesian	9	—	9
Fijian	93	—	93
Half caste	2	—	2
	322	5	327

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1914 as compared with the population at the census taken on the 2nd April, 1911 :—

	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimated Population on 31st December, 1914.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans . ..	2,403	1,304	3,707	2,943	1,510	4,453
Half-Castes ..	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,306	1,261	2,567
Indians ..	26,073	14,213	40,286	34,243	19,346	53,589
Fijians.. ..	46,110	40,986	87,096	46,962	41,813	88,775
Polynesians ..	2,429	329	2,758	2,180	345	2,525
Rotumans ..	1,043	1,133	2,176	978	980	1,958
Chinese ..	276	29	305	480	31	511
Others ..	457	355	812	405	384	789

Note.—Total European population includes 24 Europeans at Rotuma; 17 males and 7 females.

Total half-caste population includes 37 half-castes at Rotuma; 20 males and 17 females.

Total other population includes 73 others at Rotuma; 51 males and 22 females.

Total population at Census, 1911	139,541
,, ,, 31st December, 1913	155,167
Increase	15,626

The estimated population of Suva is as follows :—

Europeans	1,533
Half-castes	384
Indians..	1,285
Polynesians	689
Fijians	800
Chinese..	111
Others	320
Total	5,122

The decreases or increases in the numbers of the native population during the last five years are as follows :—

Year.	Increase.	Decrease.
1910	—	230
1911	—	53
1912	588	—
1913	553	—
1914	395	—

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1914 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 140·247 inches, as against 122·539 inches in 1913 and 115·406 inches in 1912. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 6·040 inches on the 23rd December 1914. Although the usual dry season is from May to September, the wettest month was May, with 21·970 inches, and the driest November, with 0·530 inches. The mean relative humidity for the year was 80·2 per cent.

The following is a statement showing the average rainfall throughout the Colony :—

Station.	Total for 1914.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1914.
Salailevu (Taveuni)	279·36	223·36*
Rabi	154·92	153·33
Wainunu	141·47	150·34
Navua	143·73	144·20
Muanaweni	151·40	137·14
Naitasiri	180·86	135·78
Rotumah	159·52	132·27
Vunidawa	136·38	130·69*
Nasinu Experimental Station	137·51	129·18
Nadarivatu	104·20	128·15
Nasinu (Estate)	126·52	119·11
Savu Savu Bay	109·41	110·24
Suva	140·25	110·105
Nausori	125·00	108·15
Raviravi Ira (Bua)	112·42	102·01*
Waiyevo (Taveuni)	68·23	98·22
Levuka	87·12	93·34
Nanukuloa (Ra)	102·60	89·40*
Buca Bay	94·11	81·74*
Rakiraki	82·44	80·26
Baulailai	63·80	72·22
Labasa	60·64	76·89
Rarawai (Ba)	54·20	76·81
Kadavu	62·11	73·62
Munia	60·43	69·58
Nadroga	60·78	65·81
Lautoka Experimental Station	46·16	64·53
Lautoka Estate	48·00	60·91
Makogai	59·65	58·79
Nadi	51·69	56·23

Figures marked * are averages for two years only.

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 70·9 deg. minimum, and 81·0 deg. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·0 F. The highest temperature recorded was 93 deg., on the 7th February, and the lowest was 57·4 deg., on the 20th August. (This is the lowest temperature on record for Suva.) The hottest month was February, with an average temperature of 86·5 maximum and 75·7 minimum, and the coolest month was August with an average of 73·7 maximum and 66·3 minimum.

XI.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Canadian-Australian line ; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited ; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company ; and occasionally by vessels of other companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian-Australian line to and from Vancouver, and generally once in every four weeks English mails are received and despatched via Australia. Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels. Some of the outlying districts are poorly served. Some improvement was effected in 1914, two new overland mail services being instituted.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian line, and the vessels are exempted from certain dues. A subsidy of £4,500 is paid to the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji, Sydney, and interinsular steam services.

The following statement shows the volumes of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last three years :—

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers, Books, Book Packets etc.	Parcels.	Total.
1912	1,417,859	806,265	24,946	2,249,070
1913	1,482,321	766,731	23,415	2,272,467
1914	1,464,294	774,100	24,094	2,262,488

The total value of money orders and postal orders issued and paid in the Colony during each of the last three years was as follows:—

Money Orders.

Year.		Issued in the Colony. Value. £		Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1912	....	34,890	....	11,370
1913	....	35,536	....	8,369
1914	....	40,099	....	9,641

Postal Orders.

Year.		Issued in the Colony. Value. £		Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1912	....	4,735	....	1,180
1913	....	5,187	....	1,251
1914	....	4,826	....	1,390

The increase in money order business and the decrease in the sale of postal orders is mainly accounted for by the fact that a direct money order exchange with India opened on 1st January, 1914.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, via Nausori (on the Rewa River), Nadarivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

There are telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori and Navua. Levuka (54 miles from Suva), Nausori (12 miles), and Navua (28 miles) are connected with Suva by telephone.

There are three wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa, and Taveuni, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

The Pacific Cable Board has a station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, via Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland via Norfolk Island.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the latter part of 1914 the war in Europe overshadowed most subjects which would have aroused interest in normal circumstances.

On the outbreak of the war the various units of the local Defence Force were mobilised, and arrangements were made to defend the ports and the wireless telegraph stations so far as it was possible to do so with the resources available. These precautions were relaxed so soon as it appeared improbable that any raid by hostile warships in the Pacific would occur.

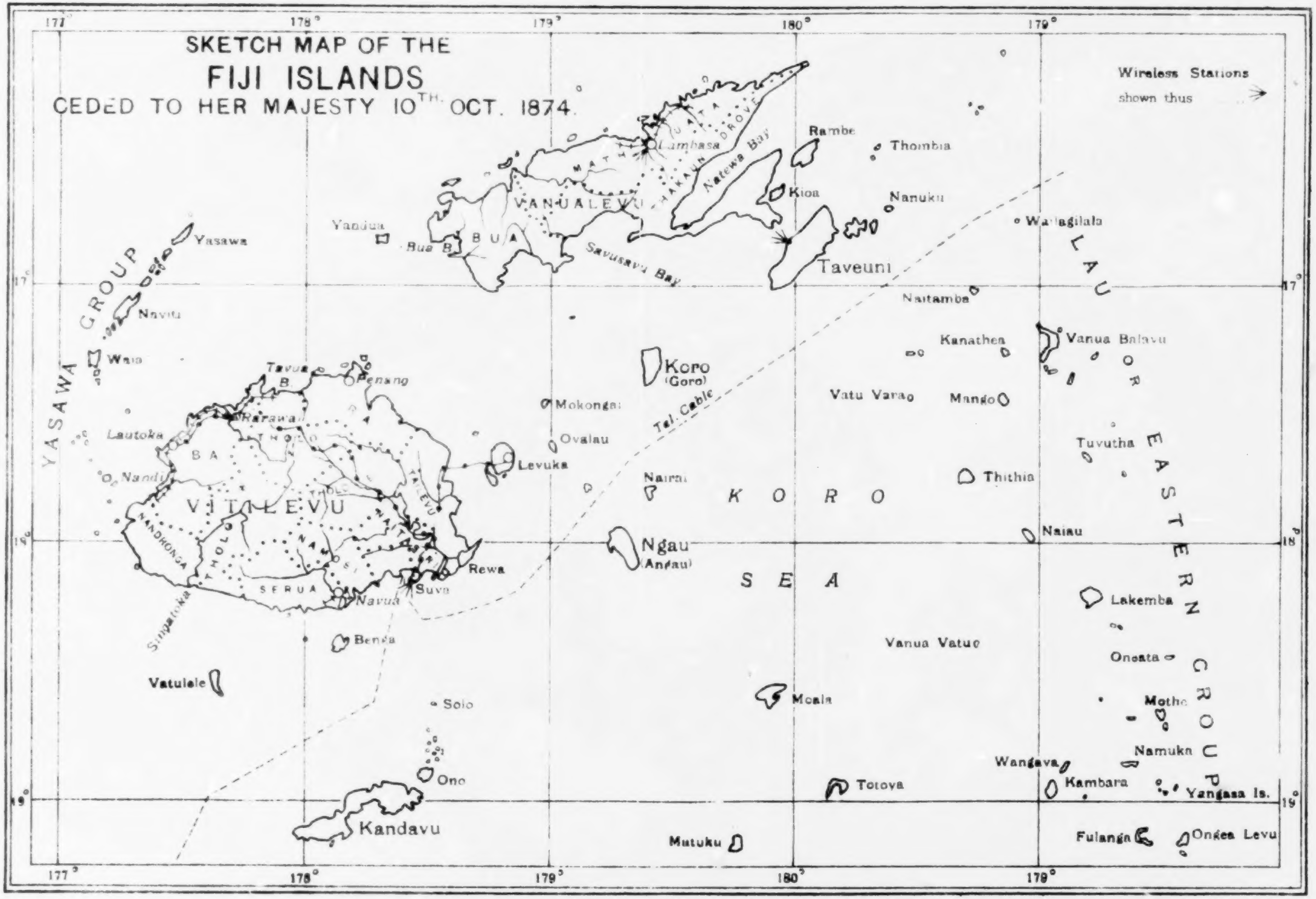
It was the desire of the inhabitants of the Colony, expressed through the elected members of the Legislative Council, that Fiji should be represented in the fighting line, and the Imperial authorities were approached on the subject. It was learnt with much satisfaction close on the end of the year that the Army Council was prepared to accept a contingent for active service. The contingent, composed of 1 commissioned officer and 57 rank and file, all of European descent, left for England on the 1st of January via Vancouver, their departure being marked by demonstrations of popular enthusiasm.

In November, 1914, a sum of £10,000 was voted by the Legislative Council as a contribution from the Colony to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, and at the date of this report a further sum of about £11,000 has been contributed to the same fund by private subscription. Private subscriptions were also invited by the Governor towards the cost of despatching the Fiji contingent to England. At the date of this Report the sum so contributed amounts to over £3,000.

The Commission appointed in 1913 to enquire into shipping conditions issued its report during the course of the year, and at the close of the year the report was being considered by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

A session of the Council of Chiefs was held during the month of May. His Excellency the Governor was present at the opening of the session on the 20th May, 1914. Resolutions of importance on matters relating to native administration were considered during the session.

The Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand opened a large and well furnished hotel in Suva in 1914 on a site reclaimed, at public expense, on the foreshore of Victoria Parade. The reclamation was carried out by the Government under their agreement with the Company in connection with the erection of the hotel.



SKETCH MAP OF THE
FIJI ISLANDS
CEDED TO HER MAJESTY 10TH OCT. 1874.

Wireless Stations shown thus
177°
178°
179°
180°
179°
17°
18°
19°
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
Navitu
Waia
Lautoka
Nandi
BA
THOLO
VITI LEVU
NANDHONGA
Singatoka
SERUA
NAMOSI
NAITASIRI
TAILEVU
RA
Rarawai
Tavua B.
Penang
Navua
Suva
Rewa
Levuka
Ovalau
Mokongai
Vatulele
Bena
Solo
Ono
Kandavu
Yandua
Bua B.
BUA
VANUA LEVU
MATHUATA
Lambasa
THAKAUNDROVE
Natewa Bay
Savusavu Bay
Rambe
Kioa
Taveuni
Thombia
Nanuku
Wailagilala
Naitamba
Kanathea
Vanua Balavu
Vatu Vara
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
Koro
(Goro)
Tel. Cable
Nairai
Ngau
(Angau)
KORO SEA
Naiau
Lakemba
Oneata
Vanua Vatu
Moala
Mothe
Namuka
Wangava
Kambara
Yangasa Is.
Totova
Matuku
Fulanga
Ongea Levu
LAU OR EASTERN GROUP

C.O. No 47.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1914.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year on the Suva Drainage Works. It is expected that the works will be completed by the 30th of June, 1915.

The progress made in the Suva harbour works at the end of 1914 was disappointing. There was an unfortunate delay in the equipment of the sand pump dredge and in the delivery at Suva of certain material required for the work. Delay was also due to an unexpected subsidence of some of the main piles driven to form the front of the new wharf. This combination of unforeseen adverse circumstances seriously delayed the main construction work, and it is now estimated that the work as a whole will not be completed until June, 1917.

The trigonometrical survey of Vanua Levu Island was continued during the year, and it is hoped that the field work will be completed in May, 1915. Unfavourable weather conditions during 1914 delayed considerably the observation work of the staff.

Notwithstanding war conditions that existed during five months of the year 1914, and notwithstanding the special expenditure incurred on that account, which amounted to approximately £14,000, the estimated difference between revenue and expenditure was maintained at the end of the year, and had that special expenditure not occurred the estimated deficit would have been converted into a substantial surplus. There was a natural and satisfactory expansion of trade, and the general prospects of the Colony at the close of the year of 1914 may be regarded as encouraging and satisfactory.

EYRE HUTSON,

Colonial Secretary.

24th April 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	,,
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
820	Jamaica	,,
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	,,
823	Zanzibar	,,
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	,,
827	British Honduras	,,
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
830	Swaziland	,,
831	Uganda	,,
832	Nyasaland	,,
833	British Guiana	,,
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	,,
837	Somaliland	,,
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	,,
841	Leeward Islands	,,
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
845	Weihaiwei	,,
846	Seychelles	,,
847	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 887.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 848.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1916.

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A SKETCH MAP will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848: [Cd. 7622-39.]

No. 887.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 848.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
18th May, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a Report by Mr. R. S. D. Rankine, Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of Fiji for the year 1915.

I have, &c.,
EYRE HUTSON,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £273,635, or £6,210 less than the revenue for 1914, £6,449 less than the original estimates of the year's receipts, and £2,797 less than the revised estimate of revenue. The principal decrease in the actual receipts for 1915 as compared with the estimates, was under the head of Customs, £20,506, and the decrease for the year under that head as compared with 1914 amounted to £6,171. Increases of revenue occurred under the heads "Fees of Court" (£4,362); "Post Office" (£1,604); "Rent of Government property" (£955); and "Land Sales" (£392).

The expenditure for 1915, exclusive of expenditure on loan account, which amounted to £46,207, was estimated at £283,003. The actual expenditure, exclusive of that on loan account, amounted to £282,831, or £9,196 in excess of the receipts for the year. Expenditure from Loan Account on Harbour and Drainage Works at Suva amounted to £46,207. The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1915, stood at £97,545.

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England.

The nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December, 1915, was £119,683 18*s*. 7*d*., the cost of which was £119,707 11*s*. 0*d*.

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1915:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial Loan, without interest	15,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)..	33,400	0	0
	£49,215	1	3

as against £60,715 1*s*. 3*d*. on the last day of the preceding year. The public debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £11,500.

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a sinking fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

The currency and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at

Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1915, being £35,745. Arrangements were made during 1914 for the issue of Government currency notes, and for the eventual withdrawal of the note issues of the Banks. The Commissioners of Currency have fixed the value of notes to be issued at £76,000, the denomination of the notes being £1, £5, £10, and £20. The amount of Currency Notes in circulation on 31st December, 1915, was £30,483.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office, Suva, at Levuka, Lomaloma, Lautoka, Makogai, Nadroga, and Labasa. During the year 330 accounts were opened and 241 closed, as against 396 and 199 respectively in 1915. At the close of the year 1,371 accounts remained open, an amount of £16,657 remaining to the credit of depositors, as against £15,631 at the close of the previous year. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was thus £12 3*s*. 0*d*. The total amount deposited was £13,996 16*s*. 9*d*., which was less than the amount deposited in 1914 by £2,493 16*s*. 1*d*. Interest earned on investments amounted to £613 17*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £446 10*s*. 0*d*. in 1914. Interest paid or credited to depositors was £380 7*s*. 7*d*. Incidental expenses amounted to £59 17*s*. 9*d*. A sum of £25 was paid to the officer who attends on certain evenings at the General Post Office, Suva, to receive deposits. No other expense is incurred for management, which is in the hands of civil servants as part of their duties.

The Bank's funds to the extent of £15,500 are invested in England. Funds in excess of the sums likely to be required in the Colony for bank purposes are remitted to England for investment as they accrue.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports and exports for the year amount respectively to £880,308, and £1,474,192, compared with £927,238 and £1,389,865 in 1914.

Specie to the value of £14,038 is included in the figure £880,308.

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during the year was £145,527.

The principal reductions in imports in 1915 were bags and sacks, £19,896; drapery, £22,010; furniture, £4,410; galvanised iron goods, £4,537; hardware, £13,823; iron (black, rails, &c.), £6,594; machinery, £4,476; and timber, £16,691.

The falling-off in the value of imports is due, to a large extent, to the difficulty experienced by merchants in obtaining delivery of goods, but it is also attributable in part to the reduced spending power of the natives due to the decrease in the export of green fruit as a consequence of the storm in December, 1914.

The principal increases in imports in 1915 were biscuits, flour, sharps, and pollard, £35,843; rice, £14,744; fish, £4,828; and vegetables and fruit, £2,104.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and value of these products exported during the year 1915 being as follows:—Sugar: 85,563 tons, valued at £1,065,463; copra: 15,238 tons, valued at £233,959; green fruit valued at £120,741.

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported in 1915 was 446,824 and 294,208 respectively.

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported amount to £52,945 in 1915.

The principal minor exports were Sici shell, £27,438, molasses, £7,591; rubber, £3,464; bêche de mer, £3,200; maize, £2,690; hides and pelts, £2,283; live stock, £1,233; and wool, £1,180.

In all cases the values show increases as compared with those for 1914, and the increased values were accompanied in all cases by increase in the quantities exported except in the case of bêche de mer. The increase in the value of rubber exported is particularly gratifying being £3,464 as against £463 in 1914. The export of livestock is a new and purely temporary feature and was attributable to the high prices ruling in Sydney for cattle during 1915.

The bulk of the Colony's trade continued to be conducted with or through Australia and New Zealand.

The total trade with the United Kingdom fell from 9·1 per cent. in 1914 to 6·8 per cent. in 1915, while that with foreign countries (chiefly the United States of America) rose from 6·5 per cent. to 9·0 per cent. The exports to the United Kingdom consist mainly of copra valued at £19,093. Two direct steamers from the United Kingdom *viâ* New Zealand visited the Colony in 1914, but there was no direct communication in 1915. The total trade of the Colony with New South Wales decreased by £145,405; that with New Zealand increased by £380,813; that with Victoria decreased by £31,442; that with Canada decreased by £69,135; while that with Hong Kong decreased by £120,476. Imports from New South Wales showed a decrease of £62,729, while exports thence decreased by £82,676, green fruit decreasing by £33,570, and sugar by £25,466. Imports from New Zealand increased by £63,620, and exports by £317,194, the increase in exports being due to an increase of £351,140 in the value of sugar. Imports from Canada increased by £19,732, while exports (sugar) fell by £88,867. Exports (green fruit) to Victoria fell by £37,256.

AGRICULTURE.

Note.—The following figures do not include native cultivation, and so far as Europeans are concerned can only be taken as estimates owing to the disinclination of some of the planters to furnish particulars of their cultivation.

Sugar.

Returns shew that the number of acres under sugar cane in 1915 was 62,308 as against 62,852 in 1914, and the number of tons of cane produced was 833,883 in 1915 as against 874,164 in 1914. The export of manufactured sugar decreased from 92,112 tons in 1914 to 85,563 tons in 1915. The value, however, of the sugar exported rose from £1,005,643 in 1914 to £1,065,463 in 1915.

Coconuts.

The area under coconuts cultivated by Europeans was estimated at 45,102 acres in 1915 as against 42,492 acres in 1914, the respective values of copra exported being £233,959 and £148,372.

The cultivation of coconuts continues to grow notwithstanding extraordinary conditions which, during the year, have unsettled and restricted the copra market.

The experiments at Laucala being conducted by the Department of Agriculture with a view to improving the condition of coconut trees on Viti Levu were continued throughout the year. A decided benefit has followed the cultivation of the trees and the application of manures. It has been arranged to extend these experiments by planting up plots of trees at various places on the coast and carefully selected seed nuts have been collected and distributed.

Bananas.

The area under bananas cultivated by Europeans was estimated at 5,782 acres as against 6,667 acres in 1914, and the number of bunches exported was 1,013,135 as against 1,715,766 in 1914. The largest shipment of bananas which has taken place since the industry started left Suva during the month of November. It consisted of 62,410 bunches—the full capacity of the ship. On that occasion planters had sought, but were unable to obtain, space for 80,000 bunches. Owing, however, to a blow and flood in December 1914, the output for the year fell short of the previous year's output by 702,631 bunches. This falling off was contributed to by the absence of a direct steamer to Melbourne, which was taken off the run when the effects of the flood became known. The prices obtained for bananas during the year were most satisfactory.

Miscellaneous.

During the year small quantities of pineapples (1,225 cases), mandarines (3,159 cases) and kumalas—the sweet-potato of Fiji—(185 sacks and 30 cases) were shipped to Australia and New Zealand and realised fair prices. The pineapple is, or should be, a valuable product, but it would appear, for some reason, to be much neglected.

As in previous years, cotton produced by planters to whom seed had been supplied, was purchased and ginned by the Agricultural Department for ultimate delivery and sale to the British Cotton-Growing Association. It is interesting to note that at the experimental stations cotton was the chief crop. It was originally intended to continue experiments in the cultivation of cotton for a period of ten years. Nine years have now been completed, and the results from an agricultural point of view are to be considered as satisfactory.

Rubber to the value of £3,464 was exported in 1915, as against £463 during the previous year. It is hoped that the export of this produce will increase.

LAND GRANTS.

The total amount of land alienated in 1915 was 654,022 acres, comprising Crown and native grants and Crown and native leaseholds. The area held by the Crown open to settlement amounts to 92,499 acres, and unalienated land, including land occupied by Fijians, amount to 4,011,879 acres in extent, the total area of the Colony being 4,758,400 acres.

In addition to these native leaseholds referred to above, 439 leases for 9,874 acres were surveyed during 1915, but the leases remained unregistered, while 690 leases for 11,964 acres have been approved, but have not yet been surveyed.

The number of applications to lease land received in 1915 was the greatest yet recorded, but the area was less than in 1914, which is probably due to a falling off in the number of applications received from Europeans.

Regulations were made by the Governor in Council, on the 26th June, 1915, prescribing the conditions on which the consent is granted to leases of Crown and native lands.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1915 there were introduced into the Colony 2,508 Indian immigrants, as against 1,572 during the previous year. The indentures of 3,343 immigrants expired during the year.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1915 was 14,362 (male adults, 8,799; female adults, 3,123; and children, 2,440), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 42,491.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was :—

Total population, 56·44 females to every 100 males.
Unindentured „ 61·74 „ „ „ „ „

Among the immigrants in 1915 the proportion of females to every 100 males was :—

Adults, 40·36; Children, 83·3. Total, 43·31.

The death-rates per cent. among indentured immigrants during the year are as follows :—

Adults, ·93; Children, 6·19. Total, 1·81.

Deaths from accident or violence are included in the death-rate for 1915. These were omitted in former years. These figures show a progressive reduction in the death-rate, and the death-rates for 1915 are lower than in any previous year; 150 children died during the year, and of these 116 were under the age of one year. The number of births during the year was 774 (not including still-born children). The question of effecting a reduction in the death-rate among children continues to engage attention, and not without success. The Committee appointed to consider the subject issued an interim report in April, 1915.

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in 1915 was 876, of which 26 were cases in which sentences were passed involving imprisonment with hard labour, and 145 were cases in which the sentence involved extention of indenture.

The number of indentures cancelled in 1915 was 464, as against 448 in 1914 and 269 in 1913.

In the course of the year the Colonial Sugar Refining Company intimated that it would be prepared to advance funds at a low rate of interest for the purpose of establishing Indian settlements. This proposal was referred to a Committee, which reported in August, and which recommended the formation of an "Indian Settlement Trust" to acquire and develop lands for Indian settlement. The report of the committee was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for consideration, and the proposal has now been approved.

The report of Messrs. McNeill and Chimman Lal on the conditions of indentured Indian immigrants was reported on by Special Committees, and, as a consequence, an Ordinance was passed which amended the "Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1891," in various particulars, and other steps have been or are being taken to give effect to many of their recommendations.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

For a general outline of native administration the Reports for 1914 and previous years may be consulted.

The revenue from Native Taxes was £15,905 12*s*. 4*d*., being a decrease of £299 15*s*. 2*d*. on 1914.

A Committee was appointed in January, 1915, to investigate and report on the working of the Native Department. This Committee reported in May, and as a result of its recommendations it was decided that on 1st January, 1916, the "Native Department" should become the "Secretariat for Native Affairs," and should be regarded as a branch of the Colonial Secretary's Office.

In July, 1915, a new regulation dealing with sanitary matters in Fijian villages became law. The standard of sanitation has improved considerably during recent years, and it is hoped that the new regulation will bring about a still further improvement.

The amount paid to the natives in respect of rents of their land leased to Europeans and East Indians during 1915 was £29,150.

The total native population at the end of 1915 was 89,574, showing an increase of 799 over the figures for 1914.

V.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-five Ordinances were passed during the year. Some of the more important of these were:—

Ordinance No. IV. of 1915 (Rotuma Laws Validating Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance applies to Rotuma unless specially excepted and with effect from 13th May, 1881, all Ordinances of the Colony of Fiji in force prior to the 15th of November, 1904.

Ordinance No. VI. of 1915 (Municipal Institutions Amendment Ordinance, 1915.) This Ordinance provided for the holding of Municipal Elections in December, 1915, and required that electors should be subject to a language test. It further enabled Municipal Councils to levy special rates for certain purposes.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1915 (Natives Emigration Regulation Amendment Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance prohibits any native from leaving the Colony without the written permission of the Governor, or of some person authorized by the Governor to grant such permission.

Ordinance No. XV. of 1915 (Necessary Commodities Control Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance empowered the Governor to appoint a Commission to recommend, among other matters, what should be the maximum prices for necessary commodities; and further empowered the Governor in Council to fix the prices at which such commodities should be sold. The Ordinance has force only for the duration of the present war, and for such further period not exceeding six months, as may be fixed by proclamation.

Ordinance No. XXIII. of 1915 (Public Trustee Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance provided for the appointment of a Public Trustee and defined the duties and powers of that officer.

Ordinance No. XXIX. of 1915 (Indian Immigration Amendment Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance makes various amendments to the Indian Immigration Ordinance 1891; facilitates the commutation of indentures, and provides for the establishment of Indian Immigrants' Courts.

Ordinance No. XXXIII. of 1915 (Oil Mines Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance empowers the Governor to grant licences to prospect for oil, and also mining leases. Provision is made to ensure that the holders of licences or leases shall be either British subjects or companies that are predominantly British in character.

Ordinance No. XXXV. of 1915 (Foreshores and Crown Properties Ordinance, 1915). This Ordinance authorises the Governor in Council to grant such leases of the foreshore and of the soil under the Colonial waters as may be declared by the Governor in Council not to create a substantial infringement of public rights.

It further empowers the Governor in Council to issue licences conferring certain powers over public roads and rivers.

VI.—EDUCATION.

A general account of education was given in the last report. In 1915 the expenditure on education was £3,335 3*s.* 8*d.*, being a slight increase on that for 1914.

The whole question of the system of education in Fiji was considered in 1914 by a select Committee of the Legislative Council. The scheme recommended by the Committee was adopted unanimously by the Legislative Council and is still under consideration. The scheme contemplates Government direct control of the existing public schools, the formation of a Board of Education, and the provision of primary education in country districts for children of European descent; makes provision for a high school in Suva for boys, for the improvement of educational facilities to Fijians and Indians, and gives special attention to elementary schools for the children of East Indian immigrants.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with a Resident Medical Officer in charge, who is assisted by a Junior Medical Officer. The nursing staff consists of a matron, a senior and a junior staff nurse, a graduate nurse, and six probationers. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1915 was 1,512, of whom 216 were Europeans.

The expenditure on the hospital for 1915, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £4,728, and the direct revenue was £1,656.

There is at Levuka a branch hospital under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a European and a native nurse. Admissions were 808 with 16 Europeans.

There are eleven provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers. The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1915 was 4,349.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities. There is separate accommodation for Europeans. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent, and the Chief Medical Officer is a member of the Board of Visitors. The staff consists of a European head attendant and a European matron with native attendants. The asylum is visited at fixed times by a Board of Visitors, consisting of official and unofficial members. During 1915 there were 29 admissions and 14 discharges, and there were 45 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a Medical Superintendent, who is assisted by a European Medical Officer, five European and three Fijian nursing sisters. On the 31st December, 1915, there were 249 lepers in the asylum.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1915 was £14,085.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a superintendent, with a European gaoler and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers, who are generally the European police officers stationed in the various districts. The gaols of the Colony are under the control of the Inspector General of Prisons. The number of persons committed in 1915 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 711, as against 531 for the previous year and 439 for 1913. The number committed at Levuka was 136.

Some of the prisoners are employed outside the precincts of the gaols on works of a public character. Others of the prisoners at Suva gaol are employed in making mats and brushes and tinsmithing. The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service was £4,705, as against a total expenditure of £5,833. The work performed on Government service is not paid for but is computed on the basis of 2*s*. per unit per diem.

The total number of offences reported to the police was 7,074, as against 5,689 in 1914. Of the reported offences 1,624 were offences against the person, 550 larceny, 364 offences against property (other than larceny).

The number of summary convictions was 5,174 and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 82.

The total number of complaints against indentured immigrants in 1915 was 1,081, as compared with 1,159 in 1914; 718 cases were heard in Provincial Courts under the Native (Fijian) Regulations.

There are 21 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 313 male prisoners and one female prisoner, making a total of 314 confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities of these being:—European, 2; Indian, 188; Polynesian, 8; Fijian, 108; Half Caste, 6; Others, 1.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1915:—

Total population at Census, 1911	139,541
Total population 31st December, 1915	159,321
Increase	19,780
Increase for period under review ..	4,154

The increase in the numbers of the native population during the year was 807.

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1915 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 99·572 inches, as against 140·247 inches in 1914 and 122·539 inches in 1913. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 7·431 inches on the 26th March, 1915. Although the usual dry season is from May to September, the wettest month was May, with 21·970 inches, and the driest November, with 0·530 inches. The mean relative humidity for the year was 81·2 per cent.

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 71·8 deg. minimum, and 82·3 deg. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 77·0 F. The highest temperature recorded was 92·4 deg. F. on the 26th February, and the lowest was 58·5 deg., on the 13th July. The hottest month was February, with an average temperature of 86·8 maximum and 75·5 minimum, and the coolest month was July with an average of 77·4 maximum and 67·0 minimum.

XI.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

POSTAL.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines:—The Canadian-Australian line; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company; and occasionally by vessels of other companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian-Australian line to and from Vancouver, and generally once in every four weeks English mails are received and despatched *viâ* Australia. Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels. Provision was made in 1915 for payment for the conveyance of country mails by non-subsidized vessels.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian line, and the vessels are exempted from certain dues. A subsidy of £4,500 is paid to the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji, Sydney, and interinsular steam services.

The volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the year amounted to 2,129,677 letters, newspapers, parcels, etc.

The total value of money orders issued and paid in the Colony during the year was as follows:—Issued, £42,941, paid, £9,352. The corresponding figures for postal orders are £4,406 and £1,030, respectively.

Fiji became a party to the International Insured Letter and Parcels Service as from 1st July, 1915. So far little use has been made of the system.

"War Tax" stamps of the denominations of ½d. and 1d. were issued in 1915 in connection with the "War Tax" imposed on certain mail matter posted within the Colony.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, *viâ* Nausori (on the Rewa River), Nadarivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

There are telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the Districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. Levuka (54 miles from Suva), Nausori, (12 miles), and Navua (28 miles) are connected with Suva by telephone.

There are three wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa, and Taveuni, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

The new station at Tulagi in the Solomon Islands was first heard in December, the strength of the signals being good, taking into consideration the fact that the mountains of Viti Levu intervene.

The Pacific Cable Board has a cable station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, *viâ* Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland *viâ* Norfolk Island.

Although the receipts from radiotelegrams for 1915 showed an increase in comparison with 1914, mainly on account of the collection of sums due in respect of 1914 traffic, there was a considerable decrease in the number of radiotelegrams sent and received, particularly as regards ship traffic. The stations at Apia (Samoa) and Tutuila (American Samao) have latterly communicated direct with New Zealand and Honolulu.

The excess of expenditure over revenue was £693, but it is probable that had conditions been normal the department would have been virtually self-supporting in 1915.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

His Excellency Sir Bickham Escott proceeded on leave on the 13th of August, 1915. The Honourable Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the government on the same day, and the Honourable R. S. D. Rankine, Receiver-General, became Acting Colonial Secretary.

The first Fiji contingent having suffered heavy casualties, it was decided to send a second contingent. This contingent, 60 strong, left for England on the 16th of July.

Sir E. im Thurn, K.C.M.G., kindly undertook to interest himself in the welfare of the members of the Fiji contingents and of other volunteers from Fiji. He has devoted himself to his self-imposed task in a manner which has earned the deep gratitude of all, while his reports on the contingents are widely read and greatly appreciated.

At the end of 1915 local contributions to the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund in the form of private subscriptions, reached a sum slightly exceeding £12,000, while private subscriptions to the Fiji Contingent Fund amounted to £7,000. In addition to these amounts considerable sums were subscribed to Red Cross and other patriotic funds.

The main triangulation of Vanua Levu was completed in May, 1915. The final results however are not yet available.

Several public works of importance were completed in 1915. The most important, the Ba River Bridge, 744 feet in length, was completed in April, having taken exactly a year to construct.

The new Government Printing Office was completed in 1915, and a transfer of the plant from the old buildings effected. The new office, in which some new machinery has been installed, is admirably adapted to its purpose.

The foundation stone of the Native Rest House in Suva was laid by His Excellency Sir Bickham Escott on the 21st of July. This building is designed to provide accommodation for Fijians visiting the capital, and the whole of the cost will be defrayed from native subscriptions.

The Harbour Works were delayed, owing to subsidence of the wharf piles, but the position at the end of 1915 was such that it is hoped that by the end of 1916 there will be one berth for a large steamer and one on Walu Bay frontage for a smaller boat, and that various sheds and buildings will have been completed.

The Suva drainage scheme as set out by the Consulting Engineer, was completed in August, 1915. The work of making house connections to the main drainage system is proceeding somewhat slowly, owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining the necessary material.

The financial situation during the year 1915 was not altogether unsatisfactory. There was a deficit on the year's transactions of £9,196, but a sum of £6,250 was expended on expenses of sending the two Fiji Contingents to the War.

R. Rankine,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	"
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 926.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 887.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1917.

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A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848.
[Cd. 7622-39.]

No. 926.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 887.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Suva,
18th May, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a Report by the Honourable Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of Fiji for the year 1916.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £317,446, or £43,812 more than the revenue for 1915, £26,948 more than the original estimates of the year's receipts, and £17,308 more than the revised estimate of revenue. The principal increases in the receipts for 1916 were Customs, £33,144; Licences, £6,115; and Fees of Court, etc., £5,446. The decreases of revenue amounted to £3,240, and were distributed over a number of heads.

The expenditure for 1916, exclusive of expenditure on loan account, was estimated at £283,242. The actual expenditure, exclusive of that on loan account for harbour and drainage works (£31,138), amounted to £261,766, or £55,680 less than the receipts for the year. The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1916, stood at £127,145.

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England.

The nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December, 1916, was £121,290 10*s*., the cost of which was £121,207 11*s*.

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1916:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial Loan, without interest	10,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	26,600	0	0
	£37,415	1	3

as against £49,215 1*s*. 3*d*. on the last day of the preceding year. The public debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £11,800.

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a sinking fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

The currency and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1916, being £18,776. Arrangements were made during 1914 for the issue of Government currency notes, and for the eventual withdrawal of the note issues of the banks. The amount of currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1916, was £61,993.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office, Suva, at Levuka, Lomaloma, Lautoka, Makogai, Nadroga, Labasa, Nausori, and Savu Savu. During the year 346 accounts were opened and 246 closed, as against 330 and 241, respectively, in 1915. At the close of the year 1,073 accounts remained open, an amount of £17,632 remaining to the credit of depositors, as against £16,657 at the close of the previous year. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was £16 8*s.* 7*d.* The total amount deposited was £14,384, which was more than the amount deposited in 1915 by £388. Interest earned on investments amounted to £573 17*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with £613 17*s.* 8*d.* in 1915. Incidental expenses amounted to £55 8*s.* 5*d.* A sum of £25 was paid to the officer who attends on certain evenings at the General Post Office, Suva, to receive deposits. No other expense is incurred for management, which is in the hands of Civil Servants as part of their duties.

The Bank's funds to the extent of £17,000 are invested in England. Funds in excess of the sums likely to be required in the Colony for bank purposes are remitted to England for investment as they accrue.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports and exports for the year amounted respectively to £878,500 and £2,107,107, compared with £880,308 and £1,474,192 in 1915.

Specie to the value of £30,648 is included in the figure £878,500.

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during the year was £153,844.

The principal reductions in imports in 1916 were:—Machinery, £14,585; biscuits, flour, etc., £14,541; rice, £9,645; timber, £7,608; manure, £7,028; iron of various descriptions, £5,046.

The principal increases in imports during 1916 were:—Bags and sacks, £29,019; drapery, £17,719; hardware, £7,941.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and values of these products exported during the year 1916 being as follows:—Sugar, 120,528 tons, valued at £1,582,721; copra, 13,489 tons, valued at £255,913; green fruit, valued at £205,122.

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported in 1916 were 817,499 and 417,065, respectively, as against 446,824 and 294,208 in 1915.

The reasons for the changes in these figures for the year 1916, as compared with those for 1915, are discussed in the later paragraphs devoted to sugar-cane, coconuts, and bananas, respectively.

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported amounts to £60,877 in 1916.

The principal minor exports were:—Trocas-shell, £25,470; molasses, £13,336; rubber, £8,834; maize, £3,208; hides and pelts, £2,779; and bêche-de-mer, £1,840.

The most interesting of these increases is that of rubber, which rose from £3,464 in 1915 to £8,834 in 1916, the actual quantity exported being more than doubled.

The bulk of the Colony's trade is transacted with, or through, Australia and New Zealand.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 6·8 per cent. in 1915 to 5·5 per cent. in 1916; that with British Possessions rose from 84·2 per cent. in 1915 to 87·5 per cent. in 1916;

and that with foreign countries fell from 9 per cent. in 1915 to 7 per cent. in 1916. Imports from the United Kingdom increased from £135,552 in 1915 to £146,025 in 1916.

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural returns are not required to be furnished by law, and many planters object to submit particulars of the areas under cultivation. The figures which are available by the voluntary returns received are therefore unreliable. The following report is based on the quantities taken from the list of exports.

Sugar.

The amount of sugar shipped away in 1916 was 120,528 tons against 85,563 tons in 1915. This increase of about 41 per cent. is due partly to an extension in the areas devoted to sugar cane cultivation and partly to the excellence of the 1916 season.

The smallest sugar company—the Penang Sugar Company—operating in the north east of Viti Levu extended its tramway system some miles along the coast east to the Ellington Estate, where a deep-water wharf has been built. This enabled extra land to be devoted to cane.

The rainfall for all parts of the group during 1916 was considerably above the average. While this probably interfered to some extent with cultural operations it helped to ensure satisfactory crops in some districts.

Coconuts.

In this industry no important changes have been made. Additional areas continue to come into bearing as the palms become old enough, and the export of copra should therefore show a steady, though perhaps small, yearly increase.

In 1916 the copra exported amounted to 13,489 tons, valued at £255,913, as against 15,238 tons valued at £233,959 in 1915. The reduction in the amount exported has been due chiefly to the difficulty of shipping the article away owing to the War, and the congested state of the Sydney market. The situation was relieved to some extent by the export of this product to San Francisco in sailing ships, an arrangement made by one firm of merchants during the year, and followed by others.

Bananas.

The exports in 1916 were equivalent to 1,651,366 bunches, against 1,013,135 in 1915. The total for 1916 falls short of that for 1914, however, by 64,400 bunches. This was brought about through the coal strike in Australia, which started about 1st November and continued until early in December, which meant the loss of one trip of the s.s. "Atua" and one trip of the s.s. "Levuka" during the best time of the year, and at a time, as it happened, when very large shipments might have been made. The loss so caused may be put down at 100,000 bunches, so that the total for the year would have been well ahead of the total for 1914, and indicates that the industry is in a satisfactory condition.

The largest shipment of bananas on record prior to 1916 was by the s.s. "Levuka" in November, 1915, viz., 62,410 bunches. During 1916 this record was broken on two occasions—by the "Levuka," October, 1916, 64,361 bunches, and by the same vessel on 8th November, 1916, 65,232 bunches. So far as could be judged from reports and prices there was no indication of these heavy shipments being too much for the requirements of the trade.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Rubber.

The exports of this product have increased from 12¾ tons in 1915 to 26½ tons in 1916, the values being £3,464 and £8,834 respectively. The industry may now be regarded as being thoroughly established. Indeed, the planting of Para rubber has progressed considerably during the year owing chiefly to the satisfactory results obtained by the Company, whose efforts are devoted solely to the cultivation of Para rubber.

Sici Shell.

The export of Trocas shell commenced in 1910, when 1,128 tons of a value of £12,331 were exported. That quantity was the maximum for one year, the minimum being in 1912, when 440 tons were exported. During 1916, 732 tons, valued at £25,470 were exported, showing that the industry is a considerable one, and that the value of the shell has largely increased. It appears that the value is still capable of being increased by the exclusion of small immature shell, and the question of establishing some control over the fishing and export of this shell is under consideration.

The only other items of importance in the list of exports are molasses, 13,346 tons, valued at £13,336; 2,952 hides, valued at £2,779; 21,546 bushels of maize at £3,208; and 22 tons of bêche-de-mer at £1,840. Of these the molasses represents one of the by-products of the sugar industry, and the hides one of the by-products of the butchery business. The quantity of molasses produced is considerably greater than the quantity exported, the latter amount being limited by the carrying capacity of the steamer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, which carries the liquid in special tanks in bulk. From the molasses so exported by that Company to Sydney, white spirit (or industrial alcohol) is manufactured. The average quantity so manufactured annually is estimated to be 1,000,000 gallons. The quantity of hides exported is more or less the same each year. Maize has lately shown a tendency to become a more important item of export. In 1879 the value of maize exported was £10,651. Owing to there being no proper means of drying and storing corn, there is often a shortage of it in the Colony, which has to be met by imports from Australia.

LAND GRANTS.

The total amount of land alienated in 1916 was 657,965 acres, comprising freeholds and Crown and native leaseholds.

The area held open to settlement by the Crown amounts to about 90,000 acres, and unalienated land held by natives amounts to 3,775,655 acres in extent, the total area of the Colony being 4,523,620 acres (excluding Rotuma with an area of 9,180 acres).

In previous reports the total area of the Colony has been stated as being 4,758,400 acres, but it was discovered in connection with the recomputation of the area of the Colony, which was carried out in 1916, that the area previously accepted was too high by 225,820 acres, the true area being 4,523,620 acres.

The total lands alienated to settlers are well over one-seventh of the area of the Colony. As it is probable that only two-sevenths of the area of the Colony are suitable for cultivation, it would appear that the agricultural lands in Fiji have been taken up to a much greater extent than is imagined generally, especially when it is taken into consideration that the Fijians utilise a good deal of land for the purpose of growing native food crops. Three-sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and in any case a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two-sevenths are mountainous but well suited for cattle.

The number of applications to lease native lands received during the year was 763, as against 784 in 1913, 763 in 1914, and 1,135 in 1915.

It will be seen that the figures for 1916 are considerably behind those for 1915, but are similar to those for 1913 and 1914. The reasons for the falling off in the number of applications for 1916 are twofold. In the first place, applications in 1916 were dealt with under the new regulations, which require that lands applied for by settlers must first be scheduled with the Crown by the native owners, to be leased or otherwise dealt with on their behalf. This necessitated the use of new forms, and a certain doubt and suspicion in the native mind of the purpose of the change led to a check in settlement. Some districts accepted the change without demur, but others at first refused almost all applications. Towards the end of the year, however, those suspicions were allayed, and all districts were scheduling land as freely as before the regulations came into force.

The second cause for the falling off in applications by Europeans is undoubtedly the War and the reduction in the importation of Indian agricultural labourers, while the fact that there has been practically no extension of the Sugar Companies' Tramways has led to a check in the development of new sugar-cane lands.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

During 1916 there were introduced into the Colony 1,756 Indian immigrants, as against 2,508 during the previous year. The indentures of 2,626 immigrants expired during the year.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1916, was 12,069 (male adults, 7,232; female adults, 2,693; and children, 2,144), and of time-expired, indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 47,496.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was:—

Total population, 57·51 females to every 100 males. Unindentured population, 61·30 females to every 100 males.

Among the indentured immigrants in 1916 the proportion of females to every 100 males was:—

Adults, 37·23; children, 87·90. Total, 44·14.

The proportion of female adults stated above does not altogether represent the true position, as a certain number of females were allowed to commute while their husbands with whom they live were still under indenture. If such women were included the proportion would be 39·27.

The death-rates per cent. among indentured immigrants during the year are as follows :—Adults, ·65 ; children, 5·11 ; total, 1·41.

The death-rates for 1916 are lower than in any previous year ; 116 children died during the year, and of these 93 were under the age of one year. The number of births during the year was 577 (not including still-born children).

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in 1915 was 640. In 49 cases the sentences involved extensions of indentures. Imprisonment for labour offences was abolished by Ordinance No. 29 of 1915.

The number of indentures cancelled in 1916 was 341, as against 464 in 1915, and 448 in 1914.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-nine Ordinances were passed during the year 1916. Some of the more important of these were :—

Ordinance No. 1 (Sugar Tax Ordinance, 1916).—This Ordinance imposes a tax at the rate of 5*s.* per ton on sugar exported from the Colony, and was intended to be a war measure.

Ordinance No. 5 (Exports and Imports Control Ordinance, 1916).—This Ordinance empowers the Governor to prohibit by proclamation the exportation or importation of any goods, and provides for the forfeiture of imported goods of enemy origin. The Ordinance will remain in operation until the Legislative Council declares by resolution that it shall be no longer in force.

Ordinance No. 8 (Education Ordinance, 1916).—This Ordinance recasts the educational system of the Colony, which in future will be under the control of a Board of Education, consisting of His Excellency the Governor, the members of the Executive Council of the Colony, and such other members, not exceeding five, as the Governor may from time to time appoint.

Ordinance No. 15 (Indian Land Settlement Ordinance, 1916).—This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a Trust to be called the Indian Land Settlement Trust, for the purpose of acquiring land for Indian settlements, for the appointment of a committee to administer and control the Trust, and for the raising of monies to enable the committee to carry out its objects.

Ordinance No. 27 (Immigrants (Bonds) Ordinance, 1916).—This Ordinance enables the Governor to require any person, firm, or company introducing into the Colony under engagement of service any person, other than a native of British India, for the purpose of being employed as a labourer or servant to enter into a bond to pay the expenses of repatriating such labourer or servant, should the Governor deem it expedient to order such repatriation.

V.—EDUCATION.

In 1916 the expenditure on education was £3,730 17*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £3,335 3*s.* 8*d.* in 1915.

Considerable progress was made during the year in giving effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee of the Legislative

Council which deliberated in 1914. Ordinance 8, of 1916, which came into force in September, 1916, provides for :—(1) The constitution of a Board of Education consisting of the Governor, the members of the Executive Council, and such other members, not exceeding five, as the Governor may from time to time appoint ; (2) the appointment of a Superintendent of Schools and such Inspectors of Schools as may be required ; (3) the establishment of education districts by proclamation and the appointment of school committees in these districts, consisting of such members, not exceeding six in number, as the Governor may from time to time appoint ; (4) the levying of education rates ; (5) the establishment of Government schools where educational facilities are not provided by Mission or other schools ; (6) the grant of assistance to existing Mission or other schools under certain conditions ; (7) the establishment of training schools for teachers ; (8) scholarships or exhibitions ; (9) the making of attendance at school compulsory in education districts at any time by proclamation.

The new Ordinance repeals the Public Education Ordinance, 1890, and the two School Boards of Suva and Levuka, established under that Ordinance, are abolished.

Ordinance 29 of 1916 supplements the provisions of Ordinance 8 in respect of (1) the transfer of moneys at the time of repeal of the Public Education Ordinance 1890 and the coming into force of the new Ordinance, and (2) the conditions under which the education rate is levied.

Thus the outlines are now clearly defined of an education system which will endeavour to meet the needs of the Colony in primary and secondary education. The two schools for Europeans in Suva and Levuka conducted by the School Boards under the 1890 Ordinance become Government schools, that in Suva being transformed into two separate grammar schools, one for boys and one for girls. It is intended to provide each of these schools with a staff competent to impart secondary instruction, and to establish in connection with each a boarding house which will enable country families to take advantage for their children of the education provided. It is hoped that the boarding houses will be in working order in 1917. Existing primary schools for Europeans will receive Government assistance and Government primary schools will be established where found necessary.

Primary schools for Fijians and Indians will be assisted under conditions to be laid down in the Primary Schools Regulations, which will be made by the Board of Education and brought into operation early in 1917. Where existing schools are deemed insufficient, Government schools will be established.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians, at Nasinu, continues as at present constituted, but, with the development of the system outlined above, it should at an early date be concerned only with the higher education of natives, receiving pupils already grounded in elementary subjects in Fijian (Government or assisted) primary schools.

A proposal for a school for Indians, which might ultimately develop on similar lines to Nasinu School, is under consideration. The existing schools for Indians, conducted by the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, will probably all become assisted schools under the regulations to come in force in 1917.

The extension of the primary school system to schools all over the group can only take place gradually, as for some time to come it will be difficult to find teachers with the qualifications which the new regulations will require.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with a Resident Medical Officer in charge, who is assisted by a junior Medical Officer. The nursing staff consists of a matron, a senior and a junior staff nurse, a graduate nurse, and six probationers. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1916 was 1,778, of whom 185 were Europeans.

The expenditure on the hospital for 1916, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £4,314, and the direct revenue was £1,337.

There is at Levuka a branch hospital under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a European and a native nurse. Admissions during 1916 were 483.

There are eleven provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers.

The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1916 was 5,271.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities. There is separate accommodation for Europeans. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent, and the Chief Medical Officer is a member of the Board of Visitors. The staff consists of a European head attendant and a European matron, with native attendants. The asylum is visited at fixed times by a Board of Visitors consisting of official and unofficial members. During 1916 there were 38 admissions and 19 discharges, and there were 56 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a Medical Superintendent, who is assisted by a European Medical Officer, five European and three Fijian nursing sisters. On the 31st December, 1916, there were 287 lepers in the asylum.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1916 was £13,422 18*s.* 11*d.*

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a superintendent, with a European gaoler and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers, who are generally the European police officers stationed in the various districts. The gaols of the Colony are under the control of the Inspector-General of Prisons. The number of persons committed in 1916 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 473, as against 711 for the previous year, and 531 for 1914. The number committed at Levuka was 85.

Some of the prisoners are employed outside the precincts of the gaols on works of a public character. Others of the prisoners at Suva gaol are employed in making mats and brushes, and tinsmithing. The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was £4,207 10*s.* 3*d.*, as against a total expenditure of £4,940 4*s.* 2*d.* The work performed on Government service is not paid for but is computed on the basis of 2*s.* per unit per diem.

The total number of offences reported to the police during 1916 was 3,187. Of the reported offences 407 were offences against the person, 488 larceny, other offences 2,292.

The number of summary convictions was 2,697, and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 73.

The total number of complaints against indentured immigrants in 1916 was 696, as compared with 1,081 in 1915. 813 cases were heard in Provincial Courts under the Native (Fijian) Regulations.

There are 21 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 274 male prisoners and 2 female prisoners, making a total of 276 confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities of these being: European, 2; Indian, 156; Polynesian, 8; Fijian, 106; half-caste, 2; and 1 other.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1916:—

Total population at Census, 1911	139,541
„ „ 31st Dec., 1916	163,565
Increase	24,024
Increase for period under review	4,244

The increase in the number of the native population during the year was 855.

IX.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1916 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 152·345 inches, as against 99·572 inches in 1915 and 140·247 inches in 1914. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 7·720 inches on the 26th August, 1916. The usual dry season is from May to September, but heavy rains fell in May, June, and August. The only months of dry weather were July (2·030 inches) and October (3·640 inches). The mean relative humidity for the year was 84·2 per cent.

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 71·4 deg. minimum, and 82·9 deg. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 77·2° F. The highest temperature recorded was 91·0° F., on the 11th December, and the lowest was 64·2° F. on the 25th July. The hottest month was January, with an average temperature of 85·7° F. maximum, and 73·8° F. minimum, and the coolest month was July with an average of 79·1° F. maximum and 68·5° F. minimum.

X.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Postal.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Canadian-Australian line ; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited ; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company ; and occasionally by vessels of other companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian-Australian line to and from Vancouver, and generally once in every four weeks English mails are received and despatched *via* Australia. Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian line, and the vessels are exempted from certain dues. A subsidy of £4,500 is paid to the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji, Sydney, and interinsular steam services.

The volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the year amounted to 2,072,283 letters, newspapers, parcels, etc.

The total value of money orders issued and paid in the Colony during the last year was as follows :—Issued, £47,550 ; paid, £10,838. The corresponding figures for postal orders are £5,067 and £1,277.

Arrangements were made in 1916 by which newspapers registered at the General Post Office for transmission as such, and posted in bulk, are received at the rate for postage of ¼*d.* per copy.

Telegraph and Telephones.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, *via* Nausori (on the Rewa River), Nadarivatu, and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

There are telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. Levuka (54 miles from Suva), Nausori (12 miles), and Navua (28 miles) are connected with Suva by telephone.

There are four wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government. The Savusavu Station, which was opened in May, 1916, is capable of transmitting over 150 miles.

Communication was first established with Vila, in the New Hebrides group, in October, but it has been very unsatisfactory owing to Vila being unable to read signals from Suva radio with any certainty, partly due, no doubt, to the effect of the high hills of Viti Levu intervening. A test with Tulagi in the Solomon Islands, and Ocean Island was held early in the year, and while signals from the latter station were easily read at Suva radio and Savusavu, signals from Suva radio and Labasa radio were not heard at Ocean Island. Communications with Tulagi have been in the nature of freaks only.

The Pacific Cable Board has a station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, *via* Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland *via* Norfolk Island.

The revenue derived from the land telegraph, radio-telegraph, and telephones was £5,667 in 1916, as compared with £6,035 in 1915 and the excess of expenditure over revenue was £1,993 in 1916, as compared with £693 in 1915. The expenditure on personal emoluments in 1916 remained at practically the same level as in 1915.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

His Excellency Sir Ernest Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., returned from leave and resumed the administration of the government on the 25th May. During His Excellency's absence in the early part of the year the administration of the government was conducted by the Honourable Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

An interesting development in the government of the Colony was the appointment of a nominated member of the Legislative Council as the special representative of Indian interests, the first nomination being Mr. Badri Mahraj.

Reinforcements for the Fiji contingents, 20 strong, left for England *via* Vancouver on the 16th June.

The various patriotic funds continued to be subscribed to in a generous manner. In the course of the year a special appeal for funds in aid of the Red Cross Society was made, and realised the sum of £8,092.

In October His Excellency issued an appeal for funds in support of Lord Kitchener's National Memorial Fund, which has for its object the assistance of disabled officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Army and Navy. The Memorial Fund has received generous support, taking into consideration the many other similar calls on the public.

In November an Ordinance was passed authorising the raising of a loan for the purpose of contributing towards the expenses of the War, the loan and interest thereon being guaranteed by the Imperial Government. It was arranged that the loan should be issued on the 8th January, 1917, and the amount raised at the date of this report was in excess of £332,000. All the arrangements in connection with the issue of the loan were carried out by the Government, and the Acting Receiver-General is to be congratulated on the smooth working of the scheme. The debentures were printed in the Government Printing Office, a somewhat notable achievement when it is considered how limited are the appliances at hand for this class of printing.

Steps were taken during the year to deal with enemy aliens, some being deported to Australia as prisoners of war, and others being required, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 13 of 1915, to reside in certain defined districts.

The Defence Force Ordinance was brought into operation on the 30th September, 1916, and Major C. A. Swinbourne was appointed to be Commandant of the Force. Regulations and Standing Orders for the Defence Force were made on the 5th of October and preliminary arrangements for carrying out the new system were made before the end of the year.

In the course of the year a committee was appointed, with the Colonial Secretary as Chairman, to submit proposals for the establishment after the War of a Marine Department to conduct interinsular and coastal steam services. The committee is proceeding with its investigations.

Dr. V. G. Heiser, Director for the East under the International Health Commission, visited the Colony in March in connection with proposals for the institution of a campaign against ankylostomiasis. Before leaving he offered to recommend to the International Health Commission that they should co-operate with the Government in the relief and control of ankylostomiasis, and this offer of co-operation was accepted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the Government of Fiji.

The special committee appointed in October, 1914, by His Excellency to enquire into the work of the Agricultural Department met during 1915 and 1916, and presented its report in January, 1916. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to consider this latter report, presented a report to the Legislative Council in October, 1916. As a result the Lautoka Experimental Station was closed at the end of 1916, and a committee was appointed, with the Superintendent of Agriculture as Chairman and a membership including several unofficial members, to advise as to the experimental work of the Department to be conducted at the remaining station at Nasinu.

The Suva drainage works were completed in January and handed over to the Works Department, the Commissioner of Works reporting that the system was in every way satisfactory.

The mail contract between the Government of Fiji and the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail line was extended for one year from November, 1916.

The proposed instalment of an electric lighting system in Suva was again postponed in consequence of the financial situation arising out of the War.

Although between 400 and 500 men have left Fiji since the outbreak of the War for the purpose of joining the forces of the Crown, the activities of the Colony have been well maintained, largely by an extension of the employment of women. The trade statistics for the year were extremely satisfactory and the revenue showed a remarkable recovery. The considerable sums subscribed locally to the new War Loan tend to show that the financial position of the Colony is sound. The shortage of indentured Indian labour is beginning to make itself felt, and may become a serious factor in 1917. Although there was a general retrenchment during the year in the Government expenditure, and although various works of public utility were perforce held up, it may be said that, speaking generally, the War has had little effect on the prosperity of the Colony.

EYRE HUTSON,
Colonial Secretary.

17th May, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
893	Ashanti	1915
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 966.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 926.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1918.

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1918

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No. 966.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 926.)

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1917.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £335,064, or £17,618 more than the revenue for 1916, £20,111 more than the original estimates of the year's receipts, and £8,109 more than the revised estimate of revenue. The principal increases in the receipts for 1917 were Customs, £11,646, and Fees of Court, etc., £6,646. The decreases of revenue amounted to £5,516, the falling off being almost entirely accounted for by a decrease of £5,145 under the head of Licences.

The expenditure for 1917, exclusive of expenditure on loan account, was estimated at £292,248.

The actual expenditure, exclusive of that on loan account for Harbour Works (£21,614) amounted to £300,717, or £34,347 less than the receipts for the year. The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1917, stood at £139,878.

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England.

The nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December, 1917, was £121,290 10*s.* 0*d.*, the cost of which was £121,207 11*s.* 0*d.*

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1917:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial Loan (without interest)	5,815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	19,500	0	0
	£25,315	1	3

as against £37,415 1*s.* 3*d.* on the last day of the preceding year. The public debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £12,100.

The Imperial Loan is being repaid at the rate of £5,000 per annum. A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a sinking fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

The currency and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848: [Cd. 7622—39].

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Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1917, being £51,945. Arrangements were made during 1914 for the issue of Government currency notes, and for the eventual withdrawal of the note issues of the banks. The withdrawal of those note issues has, however, been deferred owing to the war. The amount of Currency Notes in circulation on 31st December, 1917, was £63,696.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office, Suva, at Levuka, Lomaloma, Lautoka, Makogai, Nadroga, Labasa, Nausori, and Savu Savu. During the year 306 accounts were opened and 367 closed, as against 346 and 246 respectively in 1916. At the close of the year 1,012 accounts remained open, an amount of £18,966 remaining to the credit of depositors, as against £17,632 at the close of the previous year. The total amount deposited was £15,400, which was more than the amount deposited in 1916 by £1,016.

Interest earned on investments amounted to £687 13*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £573 17*s.* 11*d.* in 1916. Incidental expenses amounted to £49 18*s.*, which includes an amount of £7 1*s.* 6*d.* interest on advances from Public Funds to enable depositors to invest in the Fiji War Loan without sacrificing the securities held by the bank.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports and exports for the year amount to £1,011,408 (including specie value £77,953) and £2,068,401, as compared with £878,500 and £2,254,044 in 1916.

The amount of Customs duties levied was £168,849.

The principal reductions in imports in 1917 were :—Bags and sacks, £15,769 ; paints, £2,269 ; rice, £1,337 ; cigars and cigarettes, £1,113 ; and live-stock, £1,023.

The principal increases in imports during 1917 were :—Timber, £13,879 ; drapery, £10,204 ; manure, £10,069 ; meats, £9,685 ; hardware, £5,187 ; fish, £4,462 ; tobacco, £3,978 ; oils, £3,948 ; iron—black, pig and scrap, rails, &c., £3,715 ; boots and shoes, £3,092 ; stationery, £2,446 ; cordage and rope, £2,262 ; galvanised iron and manufactures, £1,621 ; spirits, £1,449 ; leatherware, £932.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and values of these products exported during the year being :—Sugar, 97,335 tons, valued at £1,485,040 ; copra, 15,368 tons, valued at £359,372 ; green fruit, valued at £169,718.

529,454 bunches and 413,301 cases of bananas were exported, as compared with 817,499 and 417,065 in 1916. The reasons for the changes in these figures for the year 1917, as compared with those for 1916, are discussed in the later paragraphs devoted to sugar cane, coconuts, and bananas respectively.

The principal minor exports were :—Sici shell, £16,488 ; rubber, £11,804 ; molasses, £11,047 ; hides, £4,328 ; and bêche-de-mer, £2,967.

The bulk of the Colony's trade is transacted with or through Australia and New Zealand.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 5·5 per cent. in 1916 to 4·34 per cent. in 1917 ; that with British

Possessions fell from 87·5 per cent. in 1916 to 80·84 per cent. in 1917; and that with Foreign Countries rose from 7 per cent. in 1916 to 14·22 per cent. in 1917.

The falling-off in the trade with the United Kingdom is due to the restriction of exports from that country, the difficulty of obtaining freight, and the general situation arising out of the War.

There is a slight increase of exports to Hong Kong due to the increased exportation of bêche-de-mer. Imports from India have fallen off considerably, there being a decrease of £18,961 as compared with 1916. This is accounted for by the fact that there is at present no direct communication with India, and that indirect communication is restricted.

Imports from New South Wales have increased by £99,715, and exports have decreased by £343,987 as compared with 1916. The increase in the imports is due to the diversion of trade from the United Kingdom and the Continent owing to the War, and the decrease in exports is due to the opening up of a new market for the sale of copra in the United States of America.

Imports from New Zealand have increased by £61,125, and exports have decreased £95,847. The increase in the imports is accounted for by the diversion of trade from the United Kingdom and the Continent owing to the war, and by diversion of trade from Australia owing to strikes. The decrease in exports to New Zealand is principally in sugar.

Imports from Samoa have fallen off on account of the large importation of goods in 1916, due to the purchase in Fiji of a large quantity of the goods belonging to German firms that were closed down.

Trade with Victoria has considerably increased principally in the export of sugar.

There is a tendency towards increased imports from Japan, trade being diverted from other countries owing to the war. Exports to Japan have decreased owing to smaller shipments of trocas shell.

The imports from the United States of America have a tendency to increase owing to the difficulty in obtaining goods from the United Kingdom and the Continent. There is a large increase in exports to the United States as the greater part of the copra exported in 1917 went to that country. The export of copra to the United States accounts mainly for the much increased percentage of the trade of the Colony now conducted with foreign countries.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

The amount of sugar shipped away in 1917 was 97,334 tons, against 120,528 tons in 1916. The decrease is due partly to unseasonable weather and partly to reduction in area caused by shortage of labour. Although some estates were given up by European planters during the year, it has been found possible in many cases to continue the cultivation of those estates by cutting them up into small blocks leased to Indian farmers. There has, nevertheless, been a reduction in the area kept under cultivation. As the sugar industry is absolutely dependent on a regular supply of labour, the disorganisation of the system of Indian immigration must necessarily result in a reduction in the amount of sugar produced.

Coconuts.

In this industry no important changes have been made. Additional areas continue to come into bearing as the palms become old enough and the export of copra should therefore show a steady, though perhaps small, yearly increase.

In 1917 the copra exported amounted to 15,369 tons, valued at £359,372, as against 13,489 tons, valued at £233,959 in 1916.

The increase in the export of copra is partly due to the natural increase following a good season, but chiefly to the continuance of regular exports to America, by means of sailing ships, which is now apparently a well organised method of export. Some thousand tons were destroyed in a fire which occurred in Levuka in certain copra stores, but a quantity of this copra was saved from total loss and exported subsequently.

As complaints have been received from the United States as to the quality of Fiji copra, the question of the institution of some system of inspection by Government is under consideration.

Bananas.

The exports in 1917 were equivalent to 1,356,054 bunches, against 1,651,366 bunches in 1916.

The reduction in the number of bunches shipped was due to the fact that the fruit steamers missed several trips in 1917 in consequence of a strike in New South Wales and Victoria, at first among railway men and subsequently among waterside workers. Otherwise the year would have been a satisfactory one.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Rubber.—The exports of this product have increased from 26½ tons in 1916 to 38 tons in 1917, the values being £8,834 and £11,803 respectively. The industry may now be regarded as being thoroughly established. Additional areas were planted with Para rubber during the year, and the older plantations continued to give satisfactory results.

Sici Shell.—The export of Trocas shell commenced in 1910 when 1,128 tons of a value of £12,331 were exported. That quantity was the maximum for any one year, the minimum being in 1912 when 440 tons were exported. During 1917 481 tons valued at £16,488 were exported, as against 732 tons valued at £25,470 exported during 1916. The reduction is apparently due to the natives bringing in less shell, possibly on account of the satisfactory prices at which they are now able to dispose of their copra.

The only other items of importance in the list of exports are molasses, 11,047 tons valued at £11,047; 4,743 hides valued at £4,328 (against 2,952 valued at £2,779 in 1916); and 28 tons of bêche-de-mer valued at £2,967. Of these the molasses represents one of the by-products of the sugar industry, and the hides one of the butchery businesses. The quantity of molasses produced is considerably greater than the quantity exported, the latter amount being limited by the carrying capacity of the steamer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company which carries the liquid in special tanks in bulk.

Maize shows a very considerable falling off, only 665 bushels, valued at £91, being exported in 1917, against 21,546 bushels, valued at £3,207, in 1916. Severe floods destroyed certain crops during the middle of the year and a considerable local shortage of maize resulted.

Rice.—A considerable increase in the area under rice seems to have been made, and satisfactory crops were obtained. The Government, at the present date, is considering the question of the erection of rice mills to encourage the cultivation of rice.

Yaqona.—It still appears necessary to import large quantities of yaqona, the product of a plant which is indigenous in the group and which, as the source of the national beverage, has been cultivated from earliest times in Fijian history. This importation shows the lack of enterprise on the part of the natives and of other small planters.

LAND GRANTS.

The following is a statement of land alienations which shows approximately the position in regard to land as it stood on the 31st December, 1917:—

Statement showing Total Land alienated to Settlers, both Freehold and Leasehold.

	Number of Holdings.	Area in Acres.
Total freehold	1,485	434,799
	Number of Leases.	
Total native leaseholds	5,519	167,477
Total Crown leasehold	1,302	68,465
Total holdings, freehold and leasehold	8,306	670,741*
Area held open to settlement by Crown (about)	—	180,000
Unalienated land held by natives ..	—	3,672,879
Total area of Colony (excluding Rotuma with an area of 9,180 acres)		4,523,620

* To arrive at the position on 31st December, 1917, add to this 1,178 leases for about 33,141 acres approved but not registered.

The total lands alienated to settlers are well over one-seventh of the area of the Colony. As it is probable that only two-sevenths of the area of the Colony are suitable for cultivation, it would appear that the agricultural lands in Fiji have been taken up to a much greater extent than is imagined generally, especially when it is taken into consideration that the Fijians utilise a good deal of land for the purpose of growing native food crops. Three-sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and in any case a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two-sevenths are mountainous, but well suited for cattle.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

No Indian immigrants were introduced into the Colony during 1917, as against 1,756 during 1916. During the year the Indian Government decided to abolish the system of immigration of Indians under indenture. At the close of the year no decision had been arrived at for authorizing the continuance of immigration under other conditions, and under Government sanction and supervision. The indentures of 3,212 immigrants expired during the year.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1917 was 9,062 (male adults, 5,306; female adults, 1,989; and children, 1,767), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 52,091.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was 58·62 to 100.

The death-rate per cent. among indentured immigrants during the year are adults, ·91; children, 3·78; total, 1·72.

Although the 1917 figures show a slight increase in the death-rate among adult immigrants as compared with the 1916 figures, there is considerable reduction in the death-rate among children, of whom 96 died during the year, 63 being under the age of one year. The number of births during the year was 511.

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in 1917 was 713.

Imprisonment for labour offences was abolished by Ordinance No. 29 of 1915.

The number of indentures cancelled in 1917 was 241, as against 341 in 1916, and 464 in 1915.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Colony is divided into 17 provinces, each under the control of a European Provincial Commissioner, a District Commissioner with or without a native assistant, or of a Roko Tui (chief native officer) for the purposes of native administration.

Each province is sub-divided into districts, of which the head officers are natives who are Government officials and are termed Bulis.

Under the Native Affairs Ordinance 1876 there is established a Native Regulation Board, consisting of the Governor (as president) and at least two members of the Legislative Council, and such other persons not fewer than six in number, as shall be named by the Governor. This Board has powers to make regulations having the force of law when approved by the Legislative Council, subject to disallowance by the King, with regard to all matters having reference to the good government and well-being of the native population. These regulations provide for the establishment of a Council of the Great Chiefs of the Colony, and of provincial and district councils, and under these councils a measure of self-government has been conceded to the native population with, on the whole, excellent results.

The Ordinance referred to above also provides for the establishment of native courts.

A meeting of the Native Regulation Board was held during the year, and two new regulations concerning native affairs were passed.

The Legislative Council, under Ordinance II of 1913, assesses annually the total amount of native taxes to be levied on each province during the ensuing year. The Provincial Council of each Province assesses the amount of native taxes to be levied by each district within the Province. Under regulations made by the Governor-in-Council the Bulis of the various districts collect the tax from the natives in each district after there has been a further sub-division among the different native villages by the district councils. The total Government tax assessment for 1917 amounted to £16,200. The amount actually paid was £16,130 4*s.* 2*d.*

In addition to this annual direct tax, which is paid into General Revenue, the natives in each province are required to contribute a sum, annually, to a provincial fund which is devoted to the payment of the salaries of native provincial officers and to such other local purposes as the provincial council with the approval of the Governor shall by resolution prescribe.

A meeting of the Council of Chiefs took place during May. The meeting was well attended by the chiefs of the land and natives appointed in each province to represent their province.

Many important matters affecting the native population were discussed, and committees were appointed at the meeting to report on several matters, amongst the principal of which were:—Matters relating to Native Lands Titles, Agriculture, Education, suggested alterations and amendments to the Native Regulations, and proposed memorial to the late Lord Stanmore.

The amount paid to the natives in respect of rents of their lands leased to Europeans and East Indians during 1917 was £34,819. The total area of native land leased during the year was 16,606 acres for which there were 1,028 applicants.

The native population at the end of 1917 was 91,113, shewing a satisfactory increase over previous years.

V.—EDUCATION.

In 1917 the expenditure on education was £7,207 15*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £3,730 17*s.* 3*d.* in 1916, and £3,335 3*s.* 8*d.* in 1915.

A Superintendent of Schools was appointed in the beginning of the year and the work of an Education Department was formally undertaken.

Under the provisions of the Education Ordinance 1916 the Board of Education in May made Rules and Regulations for Government and Assisted Primary Schools. During the year three Roman Catholic schools and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's school at Nausori were admitted to grants in aid as Assisted Primary Schools. The Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia made application for the admission of only one of its schools, as the Mission found it difficult at once to bring their schools into conformity with the regulations in respect of buildings and staff, but intimated that twelve of their schools would apply for grants in aid early in 1918 and for these applications have been received.

Rules and regulations were made for the Boys' Grammar School and the Girls' Grammar School, Suva, and these schools were opened in January. They are intended to be secondary schools replacing the Suva Public School, which was conducted by the Suva School Board under the 1890 Ordinance. New regulations were made for Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians and for the Levuka Public School.

Arrangements were made for the creation of boarding establishments in connection with the two Grammar schools in Suva, and boarders will be received in 1918.

Considerable progress was made with the erection of a new building for the Boys' Grammar School.

The Great Council of Chiefs at their meeting in Suva in May passed a resolution to the effect that the native provinces should raise by levy funds for the establishment of four Joint Provincial Schools to be conducted as Government schools with European masters. The resolution was ratified by all but one of the Provincial Councils before the end of the year, and contributions will be raised from 1918 onwards. These schools will serve as valuable feeders to Queen Victoria School and will enable it more easily to provide the higher education of which the Fijians may stand in need.

The Methodist Missionary Society approached the Government with a request that grants-in-aid be given to Fijian schools in which only the vernacular language was taught. Mr. C. F. Andrews, who came from India to Fiji to study conditions as they affected the Indian immigrant population, urged the establishment of a system of aid to Indian vernacular schools. A motion to the same effect was accepted in the Legislative Council. The chief reason urged for the establishment of vernacular schools was the dearth of qualified teachers, and it was felt that the arrangement, while bringing the schools under Government supervision, would give time for improvements in staff and buildings which would enable them ultimately to become Assisted Primary Schools. Accordingly an Education Amendment Ordinance was passed to allow of grants-in-aid to vernacular schools as a temporary expedient and of grants-in-aid to Assisted Training Schools for Teachers.

The progress made in 1917 represents a considerable advance in the evolution of an educational plan aiming at (1) the co-ordination of existing efforts, (2) the raising of the standard of education and of the school leaving age among European children and those of European descent, (3) the intellectual development of the Fijian, introducing him to a wider field of knowledge and by suitable discipline enabling him to play a useful part in the government and development of his own country, and (4) a practical education for Indians fitting them to play the part they are intended to play in the development of the natural resources of the Colony.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, the principal medical institution in the Colony, is under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer, with a resident medical officer in charge, who is assisted in normal times by a junior medical officer, but owing to the shortage of medical officers in consequence of the War this appointment is not filled at present. The nursing staff consists of a matron, a senior and a junior staff nurse, two graduate nurses, and seven probationers. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1917 was 1,947, of whom 159 were Europeans.

The expenditure on the hospital for 1917, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £5,097 7*s.* 10*d.*, and the direct revenue was £1,557 5*s.* 1*d.*

There is at Levuka a branch hospital under the charge of the District Medical Officer, assisted by a European and a native nurse. Admissions during 1917 were 487.

There are eleven provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians, supervised by Government medical officers. The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1917 was 6,490. During the year the medical officers in charge of the Lau Hospital and that at Kadavu were granted leave of absence to proceed to the United Kingdom on war service. These hospitals were left in charge of native medical practitioners.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities, with separate accommodation for Europeans. During 1917 there were 36 admissions and 14 discharges, and there were 65 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai. On the 31st December, 1917, there were 314 lepers in the asylum.

VII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans and supervised by the Inspector General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1917 was £14,263.

The gaol in Suva is under the supervision of a superintendent, with a European gaoler and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by keepers, who are generally the European police officers stationed in the various districts. The number of persons committed in 1917 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 385, as against 473 for the previous year, and 711 for 1915.

The total number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1917 was 6,589. Of the reported offences 1,554 were offences against the person, 520 larceny, 266 offences against property, other offences 4,039.

The number of summary convictions was 4,287, and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 70.

There are 20 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 301 male prisoners (no female prisoners) confined in the various prisons of the Colony, the nationalities of those being:—European, two; Indian, 173; Polynesian, two; Fijian, 122; Half-castes, one; Others, one.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1917 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	3,071	1,753	4,824
Half-Castes	1,419	1,337	2,756
Indians	38,553	22,600	61,153
Polynesians	2,255	449	2,704
Fijians	*47,857	43,156	91,013
Rotumans	1,006	1,013	2,019
Chinese	844	46	890
Others	251	381	632

* 100 male Fijians left during the year with the Native Detachment of Transport Workers for service in France, and are not included in these figures.

IX.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1917 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 162·05 inches, as against 152·34 inches in 1916, and 99·57 inches in 1915. This rainfall has been exceeded only in 1906, when 169·62 inches were recorded. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 7·44 inches on the 12th August, 1917.

The usual dry season is from May to September, but heavy rains fell in May, June, August and September. Every month except February showed more rain than the average. February with 5·58 inches and June with 7·06 inches were the only comparatively dry months. The mean relative humidity for the year was 84·71 per cent.

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 70·9 deg. F. minimum, and 82·8 deg. F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·9 deg. F. The highest temperature recorded was 90·4 deg. F. on the 6th January, and the lowest was 61·0 deg. F. on the 14th August. The hottest month was February, with an average temperature of 86·5 deg. F. maximum, and 73·4 deg. F. minimum, and the coolest month was August, with an average of 80·0 deg. F. maximum, and 67·6 deg. F. minimum.

X.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Postal.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Canadian-Australian line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Ltd., the Australasian United Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., and occasionally by vessels of other companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian Australian line to and from Vancouver. Owing to the war the receipt and despatch of mails to the United Kingdom via Australia has been discontinued.

Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services in the large islands. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels.

The number of post offices at the end of 1917 was 63, which included 16 money order and postal order offices, and 20 offices to which dutiable parcels were forwarded for delivery and collection of duty.

Telegraph and Telephones.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11¼ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, via Nausori (on the Rewa River), Nadarivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

There are telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua and Taveuni. Levuka (54 miles from Suva), Nausori (12 miles), and Navua (28 miles) are connected with Suva by telephone.

There are four wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa, Taveuni and Savusavu, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

The Pacific Cable Board has a station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, via Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland via Norfolk Island.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Legislative Council was dissolved on 31st May, 1917, and elections for the new Council took place in July, and the following gentlemen were elected :—Mr. J. M. Hedstrom, Mr. H. M. Scott, K.C., Mr. H. Marks, Mr. R. Crompton, Mr. F. C. Clapcott, Mr. R. A. Harricks, and Mr. J. A. MacKay.

On the 18th of May a detachment of Fijians, 100 strong, left for Europe for employment as transport workers. The force was under the command of Mr. K. J. Allardyce, Secretary for Native Affairs, with Mr. F. A. Williams as second in command. The men were recruited principally from the Tailevu and Kadavu Districts. Mr. Henry Marks and the firm of Messrs. H. Marks & Co., Ltd., generously undertook to defray up to £10,000 the cost of raising, equipping, and transporting the detachment to and from France, and of providing separation allowances for their dependents.

On the 13th of July, 1917, the 2nd Fiji Reinforcement, with Major C. A. Swinbourne, Commandant of the Fiji Defence Force, as officer in command, left for England. The cost of raising, equipping and transporting the reinforcement from Fiji to England was borne by Messrs. Morris, Hedstrom, Limited. Captain H. Hart Lewis, Adjutant of the Defence Force, was appointed to act as Commandant during the absence of Major Swinbourne, or until further orders, and in a very public spirited manner consented to do so without remuneration.

The natives of the Province of Rewa subscribed the sum of £1,500 for the purpose of purchasing an aeroplane for the use of the Royal Flying Corps. The aeroplane has been supplied and is now at the Front bearing an inscription of its origin.

The Fiji War Loan was closed on the 31st of August, the total amount of the subscriptions being £439,162 10*s.* 2*d.*

A sum of £11,318 was collected as the result of the Special Appeal made in October, 1917, for further funds to carry on the work of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society.

The natives of the District of Lomaiviti subscribed £500 for the purchase of a motor ambulance for the use of the British Red Cross Society, and undertook to subscribe further sums towards the cost of the upkeep of the car.

On the 1st of April, 1917, a portion of the New Harbour Works was brought into use.

At the close of the year under review the financial position of the Colony was satisfactory. Fiji has been exceptionally fortunate in having enjoyed without interruption, except for a short period in 1917, owing to labour strikes in Australia, regular steamer communication with New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. Communication with the United States of America by sailing vessels at fairly frequent intervals has enabled the Colony to sell and ship its copra in the new market thus provided for that product. The Colony generally has not felt the effects of the War except in the moderate increase in price of necessary commodities and luxuries. The decrease in European man power has been felt to some extent, but it has had little or no effect.

The conditions referred to have not been felt as acutely as has been the case in other Colonies owing to the fact that the purchasing capacity of the community has not been affected by lack of means for disposing of their agricultural products at remunerative prices.

The Colony has not yet commenced to feel the effect of the sudden withdrawal of the regular annual supply of labour from India. This change, it is anticipated, will affect principally the sugar industry, which is the greatest distributor of wages in the Colony. It is difficult at present to foresee what will be the ultimate effect of the sudden change in the labour supply of the Colony.

EYRE HUTSON,

Colonial Secretary.

10th June, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1006

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 966.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1919.

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FIJI.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 966.)

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1918.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £371,189 or £36,125 more than the revenue for 1917, £7,945 more than the original estimate of the year's receipts, and £15,416 less than the revised estimates of revenue. The principal increases in the receipts for 1918 were Customs, £31,868; and Licences, £13,816. The decreases of revenue amounted to £10,687, mainly accounted for by a decrease of £9,374 under the head of Fees of Court or Office, Payment for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid.

The expenditure for 1918, exclusive of expenditure on loan account, was estimated at £352,410.

The actual expenditure, exclusive of that on loan account for Harbour Works (£17,381) amounted to £324,758, or £46,431 less than the receipts for the year. The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1918, stood at £168,926.

The total revenue and expenditure (exclusive of that on loan account) for each of the last two years is shown in the following table.

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1917	335,064	300,717
1918	371,189	324,758

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England, the nominal amount of stock held on 31st December, 1918, being £120,064, the cost of which was £121,182.

Certain deposits made by or on behalf of natives through the Native Department, are also invested in stock of the nominal value of £8,248, the cost of which was £8,025.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848: [Cd. 7622-39].

The public debt of the Colony stood as follows on the 31st December, 1918:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Loan without interest ..	815	1	3
Debentures (bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.)	12,100	0	0
	£12,915	1	3

as against £25,315 1*s.* 3*d.* on the last day of the preceding year. The public debt was thus reduced during the year by the sum of £12,400.

A sum of £1,500 is set apart as a sinking fund and is applied annually to the redemption of the Debenture Loan. This fund is augmented by the interest on the debentures already redeemed, which is applied to the further redemption of debentures.

In addition to the amount of £12,915 1*s.* 3*d.* the Colony has received from the Imperial Government an advance of £200,000 against the loan to be raised eventually to meet part of the cost of the Suva Harbour Works and Drainage works. Of this advance £39,788 3*s.* 2*d.* is repayable by the Suva Municipal Council. The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December last was, therefore, £173,126 18*s.* 1*d.*, while the accumulated surpluses of revenue over expenditure amounted to £168,926, so that the net debt may be said to be only £4,200 18*s.* 1*d.*

The currency and the only coin in circulation are English sterling. There are two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales. Both banks have branches in Suva and Levuka, while the latter bank has a branch at Lautoka. Both banks have a private note issue, the amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1918, being £32,897. Arrangements were made during 1914 for the issue of Government currency notes, and for the eventual withdrawal of the note issues of the Banks, but owing to the War the withdrawal has only been effected to a partial extent.

The amount of currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1918, was £107,868.

The gold reserve held against these notes was £33,050. At the end of 1918 stock to the nominal value of £63,531, purchased for £62,500, was also held by the Commissioners of Currency, while the sum of £12,936 was in transit for investment.

There is a Government Savings Bank, the head office of which is at the Treasury at Suva. There are branches at the General Post Office, Suva, at Levuka, Lautoka, Labasa, Lomaloma, Makogai, Nadroga, Nausori, Savusavu, and Ra. During the year, 298 accounts were opened and 192 closed, as against 306 and 204 respectively in 1917. At the close of the year, 1,118 accounts remained open, an amount of £20,767 remaining to the credit of depositors, as against £18,965 at the close of the previous year. The total amount deposited was £16,332, which was more than the amount deposited in 1917 by £932.

(C.598) Wt.1/155. 1,000 & 90. 11.19. B.&F.,Ltd. G./11.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during each of the last two years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities :—

	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Year.	£	£	£	£
1917	13,917	13,349	2,357	2,339
1918	17,137	14,745	2,642	2,671

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during each of the years 1917 and 1918 :—

Name of Import.	1917.	1918.
	£	£
Bacon and Hams	3,923	3,582
Bags and Sacks	43,064	57,636
Beer	5,784	7,078
Books (printed)	1,531	1,934
Boots and Shoes	10,401	14,909
Biscuits, Flour, Sharps, and Pollard	81,008	90,330
Bran	4,006	6,168
Butter and Ghee	19,293	18,847
Cement	6,410	4,545
Cigars and Cigarettes	3,944	4,135
Coal	27,691	23,864
Cordage and Rope	7,940	8,269
Cutlery	3,096	3,388
Drapery	144,639	222,498
Drugs..	9,240	10,422
Fish	18,249	28,392
Furniture	2,499	934
Galvanised Iron and Manufactures	13,884	8,793
Glassware and Crockery	3,810	5,075
Hardware	59,229	43,438
Iron (black, pig and scrap, rails, fish-plates, &c.)	10,495	4,934
Jewellery	375	437
Leatherware	8,486	8,064
Live-stock	13,626	15,152
Machinery	27,901	36,006
Machinery (agricultural)	5,571	5,682
Manure	22,055	23,837
Meats	23,484	25,901
Oils	45,600	56,745
Paints	5,747	6,622
Rice	17,896	24,430
Soap	2,865	14,317
Spirits	13,472	24,800
Stationery	9,628	11,622
Sugar	4,693	4,326
Timber	40,261	52,282
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes) ..	14,698	19,396
Vegetables and Fruit (preserved and green) ..	16,458	19,438
Wines	1,924	2,267

The principal reductions in imports during 1918 were hardware, £15,791 ; iron, £5,561 ; galvanised iron and manufactures, £5,091 ; coal, £3,827 ; cement, £1,865 ; furniture, £1,565.

The principal increases in imports during 1918 were drapery, £77,859; bags and sacks, £14,572; timber, £12,021; soap, £11,452; spirits, £11,328; oils, £11,145; fish, £10,143; biscuits, flour, sharps, and pollard, £9,322; machinery, £8,105; rice, £6,534; tobacco, £4,698; boots and shoes, £4,508; vegetables and fruit, £2,980; meats, £2,417; bran, £2,162.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and green fruit, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1917	97,335	1,485,040	15,368	359,372	169,717
1918	63,010	981,018	19,318	469,332	132,877

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, were as follows:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1917	529,452	413,301
1918	438,449	313,036

The reasons for the changes in these figures for the year 1918, as compared with those for 1917, are discussed in the later paragraphs devoted to sugar cane, coconuts, and bananas respectively.

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported during each of the last two years amounts to:—

Year.	£
1917	53,728
1918	40,001

The principal minor exports were:—Molasses, £10,166; trocas shell, £8,564; rubber, £8,156; hides, £4,780; and bêche-de-mer, £1,649.

The total imports and exports for each of the past two years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1917	1,011,408	2,068,401
1918	1,166,367	1,656,066

The amount of Customs Duties levied on imports during each of the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs duties levied. £
1917	168,849
1918	189,516

72·74 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony during 1918 was with British possessions, chiefly New South Wales and New Zealand.

22·24 per cent. of the total trade was with foreign countries, chiefly the United States of America.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 4·34 per cent. in 1917 to 4·28 per cent. in 1918; that with British possessions from 80·84 per cent. in 1917 to 72·74 per cent. in 1918; and that with foreign countries rose from 14·22 per cent. in 1917 to 22·24 per cent. in 1918.

The falling-off in trade with the United Kingdom, as compared with 1917 is due to the War, the difficulty in obtaining goods on account of the restriction of exports from the United Kingdom, want of freight space, and the increased trade with the United States of America and Japan.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table:—

Nationality.	1917.		1918.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	134	337,629	126	308,611
United States of America ..	23	11,443	46	22,421
Norwegian	1	2,345	2	4,690
Japanese	4	3,508	6	1,232
Chilian	1	904	--	——
	163	355,829	180	336,954

The increase in the number of vessels belonging to the United States of America calling at Fiji is accounted for by the fact that all the copra exported during 1918 was shipped to the United States, principally in American schooners. The Japanese auxiliary schooners belonging to the South Pacific Trading Company continue to call here from Japan. They sometimes go to New Zealand and return to Fiji for copra and trocas shell, afterwards proceeding to Japan.

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences during 1918 was:—

	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels ..	76	1,528
Native-owned vessels	95	740
Chinese-owned vessels	19	138
Half-caste-owned vessels.. ..	25	210
Indian-owned vessels	5	21
Japanese-owned vessels	4	56
Total	224	2,693

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture returns are not required to be furnished by law, and many planters object to submit particulars of areas under cultivation. The figures which are available by the voluntary returns received are therefore unreliable.

The following report is based on the quantities taken from the list of exports.

Sugar.

The amount of sugar shipped away in 1918 was 63,070 tons, against 97,334 tons in 1917. The decrease was due partly to a drought and partly to reduction in area caused by shortage of labour. As in the previous year a few of the estates given up by European planters continued in cultivation as a result of their being cut up into small blocks and leased to Indian farmers. There has, however, been a reduction in the area under cultivation. As the sugar industry is absolutely dependent on a regular supply of labour, the disorganisation of the system of Indian immigration has necessarily resulted in a reduction in the amount of sugar produced.

Coconuts.

In this industry no important changes have been made. Additional areas continue to come into bearing as the palms become old enough and the export of copra should therefore show a steady, though perhaps small, yearly increase.

In 1918, the copra exported amounted to 19,318 tons, valued at £469,332, as against 15,369 tons, valued at £359,372 in 1917. This constitutes the largest export in any year, the previous maximum being 15,889 tons exported in 1909, since which year the exports were reduced as a result of two severe storms.

The increase in the export of copra is due principally to the particularly good season and partly to the continuance of regular exports to America by means of sailing ships. The question of the institution of some system of inspection of copra by Government is still under consideration.

Bananas.

The exports in 1918 were equivalent to 1,055,608 bunches, against 1,356,054 bunches in 1917.

The reduction in the number of bunches shipped was due partly to the fact that owing to a strike in New South Wales there were no fruit steamers during half of November and the whole of December, a period during which shipments are generally particularly heavy. However, owing to the influenza epidemic in the Colony, there would have been little fruit to ship, even if steamers had been available.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Rubber.—The export of this product fell from 38 tons in 1917 to 36¼ tons in 1918, the values being £11,803 and £8,156 respectively. This slight decrease was due to the difficulty of disposing of the product at satisfactory prices, owing to the exceptional conditions prevailing, in consequence of which there was a tendency to hold supplies pending an improvement in the market. The trees continue to give satisfactory results, and rubber-growing in Fiji affords prospects of highly satisfactory returns on capital invested. There are large areas of suitable rubber land available for cultivation at reasonable rentals.

Sici Shell.—During 1918, 247 tons, valued at £8,564, were exported, as against 481 tons, valued at £16,488 exported during 1917. The reduction is due apparently to the natives bringing in less shell, and partly to the difficulty in arranging for shipment.

The only other items of importance in the list of exports are molasses, 10,166 tons, valued at £10,166 ; 4,837 hides, valued at £4,780 (against 4,743, valued at £4,328 in 1917) ; and 16 tons of bêche-de-mer, valued at £1,649. The quantity of molasses produced was considerably greater than the quantity exported, the latter amount being limited by the carrying capacity of the steamer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, which carries the liquid in special tanks in bulk.

Rice.—The crop was considerably shorter than that of the previous year, due principally to dry weather in January, 1918, an important planting month for the chief part of the crop. The effect of this is still being felt. Late in the year the Government arranged for the erection of a rice mill in Suva, at which " paddy " grown in the Colony will be milled. Every endeavour will be made to encourage the growth, especially by East Indians, of rice, for which there are large areas of suitable land. It is hoped that not only will all local requirements be met but that, in time, it will be possible to export considerable quantities of rice.

LAND AND LAND TENURE.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and one of the first tasks was to inquire into those land claims and to issue Crown Grants for those which were substantiated before the Lands Commission.

In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

In 1875 further sales of native land were prohibited by Ordinance, and the only tenure granted was leasehold for a period not exceeding 21 years. This short term of lease did not conduce to rapid settlement, and between 1876 and 1896 only 100 leases were issued for about 13,000 acres, of which [illegible],000 acres were taken up for sugar-cane and 4,200 acres for timber.

By Ordinance IV of 1905, settlers were able to acquire leases up to 99 years direct from natives—the agreement to lease being subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

The same Ordinance even permitted sales of native land, and between 1905 and 1909, 20,184 acres were purchased by settlers, thus bringing the total area of land held on freehold title up to 434,799 acres.

Subsequent to 1909 no further sales of native land under the provisions of the 1905 Ordinance were permitted. Ordinance No. III of 1912 forbids the sale of native land except to the Government.

The standard tenure now is leasehold up to 99 years with re-assessment of the rental every 25th year in building leases and every 33rd year in agricultural leases. Tenants whose leases were approaching expiry and who were desirous of planting permanent crops such as rubber or coconuts were deterred from doing so owing to the uncertainty of their leases being renewed. To remove this difficulty and to assure continuous tenure the Government passed Ordinance No. XXIII of 1916, which provides that when an application to renew a lease is refused by the native owners without just cause the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor in Council issues a lease renewal on a reassessed rent.

The method of obtaining a native lease now is for the settler to select the block he desires, ascertain its name and the name of the tribe which claims it, and then to lodge an application for it with the Commissioner of Lands or with the District Commissioner of the District in which the land is situated.

The owners in District Council are then invited to place the land at the disposal of the Governor in Council to be leased on their behalf; and, if they agree, the Government proceeds to fix the rent and terms of the lease which is then put up to auction, usually at an upset premium of £1, to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Except for town allotments there is rarely any competition at auction, and the applicant usually becomes the lessee, and is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

Realising the difficulty, especially for intending settlers not resident in Fiji, of obtaining land in the manner above outlined, the Government holds "open to settlement" some 180,000 acres of land in different parts of the Colony, suited for such varied purposes as cattle and sheep runs, coconuts, rubber, and bananas, and some of them have been surveyed and classified and can be subdivided into lots to suit settlers, if done without prejudice to the balance of the block.

The rent of the land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 3*d*. to 2*s*. per acre, coconut lands from 1*s*. to 5*s*., hill land for rubber from 6*d*. to 2*s*.; banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total lands alienated to settlers are well over one seventh of the area of the Colony. As it is probable that only two-sevenths of the area of the Colony are suitable for cultivation, it would appear that the agricultural lands in Fiji have been taken up to a much greater extent than is imagined generally, especially when the fact is taken into consideration that the Fijians utilise a good deal of land for the purpose of growing native food crops. Three-sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and in any case a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two-sevenths are mountainous but well suited for cattle.

The following statement shows the position as regards the alienation of land for the years 1917 and 1918.

Title.	On 31st December, 1917.		On 31st December, 1918	
	No. of Lots.	Area.	No. of Lots.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.
Freehold	1,485	434,799	1,485	434,799
Native Leasehold	5,519	167,477	5,846	171,453*
Crown Leasehold	1,302	68,465	1,314	71,441
Total	8,306	670,741	8,645	677,693
Area held open to settlement ..	—	—	—	180,000
Unalienated land	—	—	—	3,665,927
				4,523,620

* In addition to these there are 1,388 leases for 22,946 acres, which have been approved, but the titles for which have not yet been issued.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

Immigration from India of labourers under indenture has ceased. Up to the end of 1918 no arrangements had been made for a continuance of immigration under other conditions. The indentures of 3,111 immigrants expired during the year.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1918 was 5,698 (male adults, 3,188; female adults, 1,237; and children, 1,273), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 56,072.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was :—

Total population,	60·31	females to every 100 males.
Unindentured	,, 61·69	,, ,,

Among the indentured immigrants in 1918 the proportion of females to every 100 males was :—

Adults, 38·80 ; Children, 91·42 ; Total, 47·88.

The death rates per cent. among indentured immigrants during the last two years are as follows :—

Year.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
1917	·91	3·78	1·72
1918	4·27	6·07	4·60

Deaths from accident or violence have been included in the death-rate since 1914. These were omitted in former years. The large increase in the death-rate was due to an epidemic of influenza, as a result of which many East Indians as well as other members of the community died. The number of deaths among children during the year was 78, of which 51 were under the age of one year. The number of births during the year was 378 (not including still-born children).

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in each of the past two years was as follows :—

		Sentence involving imprisonment with hard labour.	Sentence involving extension of indenture.
1917	713	nil.	190
1918	378	nil.	165

Imprisonment for labour offences was abolished by Ordinance No. 29 of 1915.

The number of indentures cancelled in 1918 was 217, as against 211 in 1917, and 311 in 1916.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The form of native administration gives to the natives a considerable measure of self-government. It allows a large voice in the management of their immediate domestic concerns and embodies such variation of native custom as has been found requisite to meet local conditions. It has proved suitable to native society at the present stage of its development and its effect has been beneficial to the people.

The power of enacting native law, or Native Regulations as they are termed, which become law for the native population when approved by the Legislative Council of the Colony, subject to disallowance by His Majesty the King, is retained in a Nominated Board, of which the Governor is the President. This Board includes four native members. For the ordinary, everyday, regulation of communal life a form of local government has been granted. For this purpose the executive divisions of the Colony have been utilised as localities.

The Colony is divided for purposes of administration into provinces, the chief executive officers of which are either European Commissioners or native officers with the title of Roko Tui. The provinces again are sub-divided into districts of which the head officers are natives. In the Revised Native Code of 1912, which continues with minor alterations the form of government adopted at Cession, local government in communal affairs is vested in a District Council representative of the heads of tribal units, with powers to make rules, subject to the Governor's veto, for the better government of the native population of the district. Matters affecting a province as a whole are discussed and settled in a Provincial Council presided over by the European Commissioner of the province, or, in provinces where the chief executive officer is the Roko Tui, by the Secretary for Native Affairs, and at this council any native of the province may personally ask any question or lay any complaint. In addition to these bodies there is also a Council of Chiefs composed of the supreme chiefs of the Colony; but the meetings of this council are held at irregular intervals and it acts only in an advisory capacity. A considerable part of the cost of this branch of the native administration is borne by the natives themselves who also contribute towards General Revenue, the total assessment for that purpose last year being £15,700.

Up till the beginning of December the year had been a particularly prosperous one for the natives. Several good seasons had greatly improved their coconuts and bananas, and the demand for these products had, during the War, largely increased, so that they were able to obtain excellent prices for these articles. While the rise in the price of commodities due to the War was scarcely felt at all by the natives living principally on a diet of home-grown vegetables and fish, those of them living near European centres made profit out of the shortage of imported foodstuffs, which created a greater demand than usual for native foods The native income was further increased by the lease of land. The total area of native land leased during the year was 4,463 acres for which there were 2,197 applicants.

In the early part of the year seditious meetings were held and inflammatory and disloyal utterances made in a part of the Colony where the native population is perhaps the most backward. The movement was started by a man who was afterwards found to be a lunatic and was engineered by a few native malcontents.

Measures were taken and the leaders arrested and deported for a term of seven years. By this act the movement was stopped as quickly as it had begun, but, in order to prevent a recrudescense of any such movement, a Native Regulation was passed with the approval of the Secretary of State to limit native gatherings. But the loyalty of the natives generally has been, as always, most marked. They contributed liberally to War Funds, the Province of Cakaudrove heading the list of the year with a handsome contribution of over £5,000. The Fijian Labour Company at the Front rendered good service both in France and Italy, and their meritorious services were the subject of a despatch from the Secretary of State. There would have been no difficulty in raising either a Labour Battalion or a Fighting Battalion had the services of either been required.

The last month of the year brought with it the influenza epidemic, and, as a result, the increase in the native population during the last seven years was unhappily more than wiped away. In the European centres, and in some of the districts easily accessible, European parties rendered sterling and yeoman service in the relief of the stricken and frightened native population, and to these efforts mainly must be attributed the fact that the loss of life was not much greater.

V.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three ordinances were passed during the year 1918. The most important of these were:—

Ordinance No. 5, of 1918 (The Marriage Ordinance, 1918).

Ordinance No. 6, of 1918 (The Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance, 1918).

Ordinance No. 10, of 1918 (The Stamping of Promissory Notes Ordinance, 1918).

Ordinance No. 23, of 1918 (The War Pensions Ordinance, 1918). This Ordinance provides a liberal scale of War Pensions applicable to the case of those who at the commencement of the War were bona-fide resident in Fiji and whose death or incapacity has resulted from their employment in connection with warlike operations.

This ordinance has not yet been brought into force.

VI.—EDUCATION.

In 1918, the expenditure on Education was £10,513, as compared with £7,207 in 1917, and £3,730 in 1916. During 1918 the new building for the Boys' Grammar School, the secondary school established in Suva in 1917, was completed, and pupils from country districts can be boarded. Boarding accommodation was also provided at the Girls' Grammar School in temporary buildings.

Under the system inaugurated in 1917, twelve more schools were admitted to receive grants in aid from public funds under the Assisted Primary Schools Regulations, ten being conducted by the Methodist Mission and two by the Roman Catholic Mission. The admission of these denominational schools in larger numbers has been prevented by difficulties arising out of the War.

It was decided, as a temporary expedient, to give grants in aid from public funds to vernacular schools, in order to assist the Mission bodies to bring their schools up to the requirements of the Primary Schools Regulations, and in the hope of assisting in the organisation of Indian education, where progress was rendered slow by the lack of efficient teachers. Regulations were made by the Board of Education allowing the payment of salary grants on easy terms, but only ten applications for admission were received in 1918.

The lack of trained teachers and the difficulty of obtaining them from outside the Colony during the War has rendered progress slow in both primary and secondary education.

Under the scheme providing for grants to Assisted Training Schools for Teachers, twelve students at the Davuilevu Institution of the Methodist Mission were examined for certificates at the end of the year, but, owing to the outbreak of influenza, the examinations could not be concluded.

The scheme for the establishment of four Joint Provincial Schools to act as feeders to the Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians was proceeded with, but it was deemed inadvisable to erect buildings and open the schools in 1918, owing to the excessively high cost of materials and the difficulty of obtaining teachers. The major portion of the cost of the schools will be borne by the natives themselves but their contributions will be supplemented from general revenue both for erection and upkeep.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital, Suva, is the principal medical institution in the Colony. The number of patients treated in the hospital in 1918 was 2,480, of whom 266 were Europeans.

The expenditure on the hospital for 1918, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £5,457 11*s.* 11*d.*, and the direct revenue was £2,146 18*s.* 11*d.*

There is a branch hospital at Levuka. Admissions during 1918 were 534.

There are eleven provincial hospitals for the treatment of native Fijians. These are supervised by Government Medical Officers. Medical officers attached to several of these hospitals have been absent during the year on war service, and in those cases the hospitals were left in charge of native medical practitioners. The number of admissions to these hospitals in 1918 was 6,324.

There is a lunatic asylum at Suva for the reception of patients of both sexes of all nationalities. There is separate accommodation for Europeans. The Senior Medical Officer is Superintendent, and the Chief Medical Officer is a member of the Board of Visitors. The staff consists of a European head attendant and a European matron, with native attendants. During 1918 there were 38 admissions and ten discharges, and there were 70 patients in the asylum at the close of the year.

There is a leper asylum on the island of Makogai, under the charge of a medical superintendent, who is assisted by a European medical officer, five European and three Fijian nursing sisters. On the 31st December, 1918, there were 327 lepers in the asylum.

The resources of the Medical Department were greatly strained in November and December by the influenza epidemic in which eight out of forty-four native medical practitioners died.

The total number of deaths during the epidemic was 8,145, of which 69 were Europeans, 76 half-castes, 5,154 Fijians, 2,553 Indians, and 293 persons of other nationality.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of Fijians and Indians, with European inspectors and sub-inspectors under the command, direction, and superintendence of the Inspector-General of Constabulary. The cost of the force in 1918 was £14,752.

The gaol in Suva is under the control and superintendence of the Inspector-General of Prisons, with a European superintendent, gaoler, and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by superintendents, who are generally the European Constabulary officers stationed in the various districts. In districts where there are no inspectors or sub-inspectors the District Commissioners are in charge. The number of persons committed in 1918 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 351, as against 385 for the previous year.

The number committed at Levuka was 15.

Some of the prisoners are employed outside the precincts of the gaols on works of a public character authorised by the Governor. Some of the prisoners at Suva gaol are employed in making mats and brushes, and in tinsmithing. The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was £3,393. The total expenditure on prisons was £8,347. The work performed on the Government service is not paid for but is computed on the basis of 2*s.* per unit per diem.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or Magistrates during 1918 was 5,596. Of the reported offences 1,187 were offences against the person, 534 larceny, 520 against property, other offences 3,355.

The following table shows the number of offences reported in respect of the last two years:—

1917	6,589
1918	5,596

The number of summary convictions was 3,489, and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 63.

There are 20 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last there were 232 prisoners (one female prisoner) confined in the various prisons of the Colony.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1918, as compared with the population at the census taken on the 2nd April, 1911 :—

	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimated population on 31st December, 1918.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ..	2,403	1,304	3,707	3,005	1,743	4,748
Half-castes ..	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,438	1,365	2,803
Indians	26,073	14,213	40.286	38,513	23,232	61,745
Polynesians ..	2,429	329	2,758	2,262	447	2,709
Fijians	46,110	40,986	87,096	45,927 *	41,834	87,761
Rotumans ..	1,043	1,133	2,176	1,046	1,054	2,100
Chinese	276	29	305	859	54	913
Others	457	355	812	257	380	637

* 100 male Fijians left during the year 1917 with the Native Detachment of transport workers for service in France, and are not included in these figures.

Note.—Total European population includes 16 Europeans at Rotuma ; 10 males and 6 females.

Total half-caste population includes 32 half-castes at Rotuma ; 21 males and 11 females.

Total other population includes 115 others at Rotuma ; 85 males and 30 females.

Total population at census, 1911	139,541
,, ,, 31st December, 1918	163,416
Increase ..	23,875
Decrease in population as compared with 1917 ..	2,575

The decrease is a result of the abnormal number of deaths which occurred during the influenza epidemic.

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1918 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 103·84 inches, as against 162·05 inches in 1917 and 152·34 inches in 1916. This rainfall is 8½ inches below the average, and fell on only 225 days against an average of 248. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 4·70 inches on the 16th August, 1918.

The usual dry season is from May to September, but heavy rains fell in May, June, and August, whereas January and November were exceptionally dry ; September and October having also much less rain than usual.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 84·0 per cent., being practically the same as for the two previous years.

The following is a statement showing the average rainfall through the Colony:—

Station.	Total for 1918.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1918.
	Inches.	Inches.
Wainunu	119·36	149·46
Nadarivatu	106·60	132·43
Navua	126·31	143·19
Nasinu Experimental Station ..	109·48	129·74
SavuSavu Bay	94·87	106·20
Suva	103·84	112·38
Nausori	95·43	110·33
Waiyevo (Taviuni)	91·93	104·18
Levuka	67·92	90·20
Buca Bay	101·42	102·31
Rakiraki	98·13	81·84
Baulailai	90·89	86·10
Labasa..	80·50	99·91
Rarawai (Ba)	88·53	79·61
Munia	61·46	70·48
Nadroga	72·10	69·60
Lautoka Estate	67·14	64·95
Tavua	74·70	70·57
Navisa (Ba)	90·74	93·97

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 70·8 deg. F. minimum, and 82·5 deg. F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·6 deg. F. The highest temperature recorded was 91·0 deg. F. on the 31st January, and the lowest was 59·8 deg. F. on the 23rd August. The hottest month was January, with an average temperature of 87·6 deg. F. maximum, and 73·2 deg. F. minimum, and the coolest month was August with an average of 77·9 deg. F. maximum, and 66·1 deg. F. minimum.

XI.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Postal.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines:—The Canadian-Australian line; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited; and occasionally by vessels of other companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian-Australian line to and from Vancouver. Owing to the War the receipt and despatch of mails to the United Kingdom via Australia has been discontinued.

Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not so frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or auxiliary cutter services and overland mail carrier services in the larger islands. There is also more or less regular communication by small sailing vessels.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian line, and the vessels are exempted from the payment of certain dues. A subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum is paid to the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji-Sydney and Melbourne, and Interinsular steam services. Under the last contract the subsidy paid was at the rate of £4,500 per annum, but on the expiration of that contract on 31st October, 1917, it was found necessary in order to secure a continuation of the service, to pay to the Company an increased subsidy, viz, £7,500 per annum. The new contract, which was made for one year, has been extended indefinitely, and may be terminated by either party on one month's notice.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last two years :—

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers, Books, Book Packets, etc.	Parcels.	Total.
1917	1,193,579	943,743	30,622	2,167,944
1918	1,175,348	856,616	30,149	2,062,113

The total value of money orders and postal orders issued and paid in the Colony during each of the last two years was as follows :—

Money Orders.

Year.		Issued in the Colony. Value. £	Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1917	..	52,777	14,285
1918	..	46,905	14,124

Postal Orders.

Year.		Issued in the Colony. Value. £	Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1917	..	4,857	1,347
1918	..	4,012	1,208

The number of Post Offices at the end of 1918 was 65, which included 15 money order offices and 16 postal order offices, and 23 offices to which dutiable parcels were forwarded for delivery and collection of duty.

Telegraph and Telephones.

There is telegraphic communication between Suva and Levuka—a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

There is an overland telephone line from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, via Nausori (on the Rewa river), Nadařivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

There are telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taviuni. Levuka (54 miles from Suva), Nausori (12 miles), and Navua (28 miles) are connected with Suva by telephone.

There are four wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa Taviuni, and SavuSavu, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

The Pacific Cable Board has a station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, via Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland via Norfolk Island.

The revenue derived from the Land-Telegraph, Radio-Telegraph, and Telephones was £6,599 in 1918, as compared with £6,763 in 1917, and the excess of expenditure over revenue was £924 in 1918, as compared with £480 in 1917.

XII.—GENERAL.

His Excellency Sir Ernest Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., left the Colony on the 19th of June on leave pending his retirement, which took effect from the 24th of July. Mr. C. H. Rodwell, C.M.G., who was appointed on the 8th of April to be Governor of the Colony, arrived at Lautoka on the 9th of October, and at Suva on the 10th of October, on which day he assumed the administration of the Colony.

The sum of £22,408 13*s*. 0*d*. was collected in response to the Red Cross Special Appeal for 1918, bringing the total amount collected in the Colony towards War funds under the control of the Fiji Branch of the British Red Cross Society to £64,609.

The Third Fiji reinforcements, 27 strong, left for England on 28th June, and on the 10th August, the 3rd Fiji Contingent, 60 strong, under the command of Lieutenant Howard, left for New Zealand, where they were incorporated with the New Zealand Forces. The Third Contingent was composed of persons of mixed European descent, and the expenses of raising, equipping, and sending the men to New Zealand, with the exception of their military pay, were met from funds placed at the disposal of the Honourable R. Crompton by an anonymous donor.

Owing to the conclusion of the armistice the Contingent did not proceed to the front and has since returned to the Colony from New Zealand.

At the end of August a meeting of representative planters was held in Fiji which decided to establish a new body to be known as "The Federated Council of the Planters of Fiji." There will still be, in the various centres, local Planters' Associations, each of which will nominate a representative to the Federated Council, but it is hoped that the establishment of a central organisation will facilitate discussion between the Government and the planting community on subjects affecting the industries of the Colony.

The outstanding event of the year and one fraught with serious consequence to the Colony was the outbreak of the influenza epidemic in November.

The epidemic came at a time when, owing to the depletion of the medical service, local shipping difficulties, and the dislocation of steamer services with Australia and New Zealand in consequence of labour troubles, the task of coping with it was more difficult than would have been the case in normal times. So soon as the epidemic assumed a serious nature, the services of practically the whole European population were placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Government, and voluntary workers assisted in attending not only Europeans but also Fijians, Indians, and other coloured members of the community. Temporary hospitals were established in Suva and other centres, and hospitals belonging to plantations owners were requisitioned and used for the treatment of patients. Medical relief parties from New Zealand and Australia, under Colonel Jennings and Major Alexander, respectively, rendered excellent assistance in various parts of the Colony. The local medical officers worked at exceedingly high pressure throughout the epidemic and their services and those of the medical relief parties and voluntary workers undoubtedly saved a very large number of lives. Notwithstanding the steps taken the epidemic caused deaths numbering 8,145, being 4·96 of the population, while the expenditure incurred amounted to some £10,000.

Now that the War has been brought to a successful conclusion and there is an early prospect of conditions becoming normal, the development of the Colony's resources should be assured provided that some means can be found of meeting the prevailing labour shortage.

In Suva excellent harbour accommodation has been provided by the completion of the harbour works at a cost of a sum of £215,000. Vessels drawing up to 30 feet of water can be berthed at the wharves, while the reclamation works provide ample space for storage sheds and business premises.

It would be a distinct advantage to the Colony if vessels from and to the United Kingdom and India could be induced to call at Suva. As much of the goods imported for use in the Colony is produced in the United Kingdom and as one of the principal exports (copra) is, or should be, shipped thence, there is an excellent opening for a direct line of steamers to call at Suva. As regards India, foodstuffs for use of the Indian population could, with advantage, be imported direct while the vessels would afford opportunities for passenger traffic between Fiji and India, of which advantage would be taken.

R. RANKINE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

28th May, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917-1918
978	Bahamas	„
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	„
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	„
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	„
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	„
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	„
997	Basutoland	„
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	„
1001	Hong Kong	„
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	„
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancien Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 1047.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1006.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1920.

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No. 1047.

FIJI.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1006.)

REPORT BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON THE FIJI BLUE BOOK FOR 1919.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year amounted to £415,432, or £44,243 in excess of the revenue for 1918. The principal increases in revenue occurred in respect of Licences, £22,479, and Fees of Court or Office, Payment for specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid, £13,718. Customs receipts showed a decrease of £19,657.

The actual expenditure, exclusive of that incurred in respect of loan account for Harbour Works (£1,895) amounted to £440,232, or £24,800 more than the revenue. Abnormal causes, namely the cost of Contingents which had left the Colony for active service, and the influenza epidemic, were responsible for the excess of expenditure over revenue. The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1919, stood at £142,231.

As compared with the previous year the total revenue and expenditure, exclusive of loan account, was as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1918	371,189	324,758
1919	415,432	440,232

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England, the nominal amount of stock held on the 31st December last being £126,314. In addition, certain deposits made by or on behalf of natives, through the Native Secretariat, are also invested in stock of the nominal value of £8,248.

On the 31st December last the public debt of the Colony had been reduced to £4,300 in respect of Debentures bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent., as against £12,915 on the last day of the preceding year.

In addition to this amount of £4,300 the Colony has received from the Imperial Government an advance of £200,000 against the loan to be raised to meet a part of the cost of the Suva Harbour Works and Drainage Works. Of this sum the liability of the Suva Municipal Council amounts to £39,788 3*s.* 2*d.* The public debt of the Colony amounted to £164,511 16*s.* 10*d.*, while the accumulated surpluses of revenue over expenditure amounted to £142,231. The net debt may be said to be £22,280 16*s.* 10*d.*

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848.

The currency and coin in circulation are English sterling. The two private Banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales—have, tentatively, a private note issue, and the value of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1919, amounted to £30,852. The issue of Government currency notes amounted, at the close of the year, to £149,868, as against £107,868 at the end of the year 1918.

The gold reserve held against the Government note issue by the Treasury was £37,500. At the end of 1919 Stock to the nominal value of £132,922, was held by the Commissioners of Currency.

During the year under review, an additional branch of the Government Savings Bank was opened at Colo East. There are now eleven branches of this institution, having, in all, 1,351 accounts amounting to £26,851, as against £20,767 at the close of the previous year. The total amount deposited during the year was £25,355, exceeding deposits in 1918, by £9,023.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past two years of the Suva and Levuka Municipalities:—

	Suva Municipality.		Levuka Municipality.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
Year.	£	£	£	£
1918	17,137	14,745	2,642	2,671
1919	44,846	31,830	2,991	3,083

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during each of the years 1918 and 1919.

Name of Import.	1918.	1919.
	£	£
Bags and sacks	57,636	21,059
Boots and shoes	14,909	8,421
Biscuits, flour, sharps, and pollard	90,330	107,485
Butter and ghee	18,847	25,638
Coal	23,864	38,939
Drapery	222,498	199,809
Drugs..	10,422	8,712
Fish	28,392	13,553
Galvanised Iron and manufactures	8,793	15,955
Hardware	43,438	43,358
Live-stock	15,152	8,521
Machinery	41,688	39,953
Manure	23,837	19,146
Meats	25,901	19,856
Oils	56,745	45,994
Rice	24,430	36,608
Soap	14,317	4,261
Spirits	24,800	17,637
Stationery	11,622	12,772
Timber	52,282	18,721
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes) ..	19,396	17,914
Vegetables and fruit (preserved and green) ..	19,438	21,460

14) Wt.32535/351. 1,250 & 90.. 11.20. B. & F.Ltd. G.11/14.

The principal reductions in imports during 1919 were, bags and sacks, boots and shoes, drapery, drugs, fish, live stock, machinery, manure meats, oils, soap, spirits, timber and tobacco.

The principal increases in imports during 1919, were biscuits, flour, sharps, butter and ghee, coal, galvanised iron and manufactures, rice, stationery, vegetables, and fruit (preserved and green).

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit. Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£
1918	63,010	981,018	19,318	469,332	132,877
1919	64,348	1,014,240	27,311	674,215	76,563

The numbers of bunches and cases of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, were as follows:—

Year.	Bunches.	Cases.
1918	438,449	313,036
1919	142,387	235,204

After deducting the value of the three principal articles of export from the total value of the exports, the value of the other or minor products exported during each of the last two years, amounts to:—

Year.	£
1918	40,001
1919	57,018

The principal minor exports were:—Cattle, £1,345; bêche de mer, £2,121; hides, £5,124; maize, £1,841; molasses, £7,812; rubber, £13,867; trocas shell, £20,764; and turtle shell, £1,253.

The total imports and exports for each of the past two years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £
1918	1,166,367	1,656,066
1919	1,060,314	1,871,062

The amount of Customs duties levied on imports during each of the past two years was as follows:—

Year.	Customs duties levied. £
1918	189,516
1919	158,094

65·99 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony during 1919 was with British Possessions, chiefly New South Wales and New Zealand.

25·62 per cent. of the total trade was with foreign countries, chiefly the United States of America.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom increased from 4·28 per cent. in 1918 to 7·77 per cent. in 1919: that with British Possessions fell from 72·74 per cent. in 1918 to 65·99 per cent. in 1919, and that with foreign countries rose from 22·24 per cent. in 1918 to 25·62 per cent. in 1919.

The increase in the trade with the United Kingdom, as compared with 1918, is due principally to the export shipments of 2,130 tons of copra and 148,678 lbs. of rubber.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table:—

Nationality.	1918.		1919.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	126	308,611	103	257,448
American	46	22,421	35	18,789
Norwegian	2	4,690	—	——
Japanese	6	1,232	—	——
Belgian	—	——	1	277
	180	336,954	139	276,514

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences during 1919 were:—

	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels	96	1,671
Native-owned vessels	78	606
Chinese-owned vessels	19	157
Indian-owned vessels	10	48
Japanese-owned vessels	8	75
Total	211	2,559

AGRICULTURAL.

Sugar.—The amount of sugar shipped away in 1919 was 64,348 tons, as against 63,070 in 1918. As the sugar industry is largely dependent on a regular supply of labour, the disorganisation of the system of Indian immigration has necessarily resulted in a reduction in the amount of sugar produced. The export of raw sugar during the year was reduced to some extent in consequence of shipping difficulties occurring in Australia.

Coconuts.—No important changes have occurred in regard to the coconut industry. Additional areas continue to come into bearing, and the export of copra may be expected to show a steady increase.

In 1919, the copra exported amounted to 27,311 tons, valued at £674,215, as against 19,318 tons, valued at £469,332 in 1918. The former quantity is the largest export in any year, exceeding by 7,993 tons the previous record shipment.

Coconut planters enjoyed a particularly good season, during the whole of which high prices were realised for copra, and regular shipments to America were maintained by means of sailing ships. The question of the institution of some system of inspection of copra by Government is still under consideration.

Bananas.—The exports in 1919 were equivalent to 612,786 bunches, against 1,055,608 bunches in 1918.

The serious decrease is attributed to abnormal causes, namely the lack of shipping owing to strikes in Australia, and the effects of the influenza epidemic in Fiji and Australia where its presence necessitated the imposition of Quarantine Regulations which interfered with shipping arrangements.

Rice.—The crop was again short. The Government arranged for the purchase from India of 900 tons, which relieved the shortage to some extent. The Government Rice Mill was unable to commence milling, since the paddy grown by the Indians was all required by them in the districts in which it was grown. Every endeavour is being made to encourage the growth, especially by East Indians, of rice, for which there are large areas of suitable land. It is hoped that not only will all local requirements be met, but that, in time, it will be possible to export considerable quantities of rice. The rice industry in the Colony is capable of extensive development, both for local consumption and for export to the neighbouring Dominions.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Rubber.—The export of rubber rose from 36¼ tons in 1918 to 69 tons in 1919, the values being £8,156 and £13,867 respectively. A portion of the increase may be ascribed to the shipment of rubber held over from the previous year. The trees continue to give satisfactory results, and rubber-growing in Fiji affords prospects of satisfactory returns on capital invested. There are large areas of suitable rubber land available for cultivation at reasonable rentals.

Sici Shell.—During 1919, 417 tons, valued at £20,764 were exported as against 247 tons, valued at £8,564 exported during 1918. The increase, particularly in value, is satisfactory. With a view to preservation of the industry, a Bill was passed during the year to regulate the size of shell which may be exported, and to enable a close season to be fixed.

Other items of minor importance in the list of exports are molasses, 7,812 tons, valued at £7,912 ; 5,387 hides, valued at £5,124 and 9,832 bushels of maize, valued at £1,841.

LAND AND LAND TENURE.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and after the deed of cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued.

In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

In 1875 further sales of native land were prohibited by Ordinance, and the only tenure granted was leasehold for a period not exceeding 21 years. This short term of lease did not conduce to rapid settlement, and between 1876 and 1896 only 100 leases were issued for about 13,000 acres, of which 7,000 acres were taken up for sugar cane, and 4,200 acres for timber.

By Ordinance iv of 1905 settlers were able to acquire leases up to 99 years direct from natives, the agreement to lease being subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

The same Ordinance permitted sales of native land, and between 1905 and 1909, 20,184 acres were purchased by settlers, bringing the total area of land held on freehold title up to 434,799 acres.

Subsequent to 1909 no futher sales of native land under the provisions of the 1905 Ordinance were permitted. Ordinance No. iii of 1912 forbids the sale of native land except to the Government.

The standard tenure now is leasehold up to 99 years with reassessment of the rental every 25th year in building leases, and every 33rd year in agricultural leases. Tenants whose leases were approaching expiry and who were desirous of planting permanent crops such as rubber or coconuts were deterred from doing so owing to the uncertainty of their leases being renewed. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. xxiii of 1916, which provides that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor in Council may issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

The present method of obtaining a native lease is for the intending settler to lodge an application with the Commissioner of Lands or a District Commissioner for the land he desires to lease. After ascertaining particulars in regard to ownership, the owners in District Council are invited to place the land at the disposal of the Governor in Council to lease on their behalf; and, if the land is handed over, the Government proceeds to fix the rent and terms of the lease which is then put up to auction, usually at an upset premium of £1 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Except for town allotments there is rarely any competition at auction and the applicant usually becomes the lessee, and is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land. The system of auction is dispensed with in cases where the area of the land applied for is small, and the applicant is an East Indian. The Government holds "open to settlement" some 180,000 acres of land in different parts of the Colony, suited for such varied purposes as cattle and sheep runs, coconut, rubber, and banana cultivations. Some of the land has been surveyed and classified.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 3*d.* to 2*s.* per acre, coconut lands from

1*s*. to 5*s*., hill land for rubber, from 6*d*. to 2*s*., banana, sugar cane, rice, and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total lands alienated to settlers exceed one seventh of the area of the Colony. Three sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and in any case a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two sevenths are mountainous but suited for cattle.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

Immigration from India of labourers under a system of indenture ceased at the end of the year.

Towards the end of the year an unofficial mission consisting of Mr. R. S. D. Rankine, C.M.G., and the Bishop of Polynesia proceeded to India with a view to secure a resumption, under improved conditions, of emigration of East Indians to Fiji. At the end of the year the Mission had not reported. Much had already been done to improve the lot of the Indians in the Colony, and one of the most important of reforms was the decision agreed to by the majority of the Council of Planters of Fiji to abolish on the 1st January, 1920, all indentures then existing.

The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1919, was 3,944 (male adults 2,443; female adults 944, and children 557); and of the time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 58,696.

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was :—

Total population 61·11 females to every 100 males.
Unindentured " 62·48 " " " 100 "

Among the indentured immigrants in 1919, the proportion of females to every 100 males was :—

Adults, 38·64; Children, 79·10; Total, 43·21.

The death rates per cent. among indentured immigrants during the last two years are as follows :—

Year.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
1918	4·27	6·07	4·60
1919	1·23	2·73	1·55

The high death rate during 1918 was due to a severe epidemic of influenza. The number of deaths amongst Indentured Immigrants was 127, of which 23 were under the age of one year. The number of births was 214, being equal to a percentage of 5·96 as against 6·46 the previous year.

The number of convictions for offences against the labour laws in each of the past two years was as follows :—

Year.	Charges.	Sentence involving imprisonment with hard labour.	Sentence involving extension of indenture.
1918 ..	378	nil	165
1919 ..	138	nil	62

Imprisonment for labour offences under Immigration laws was abolished by Ordinance No. 29 of 1915.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The form of native administration, based on the communal system, continues to prove itself generally suitable to the state of native society in its varying forms. It has proved beneficial to the people, who enjoy a measure of self government in so far as their immediate internal affairs are concerned. Native communes derive, by means of a local rate, funds with which to meet the cost of their minor administrative requirements. From these funds, which are augmented by fines imposed in District Courts, are paid the salaries of the minor native officials and village police.

Signs are not wanting, however, of a development on the part of natives in some districts towards individualism, and instances of enterprise and energy are more frequent than formerly. This development of the native mind is one which is kept well in sight with a view to introducing such variations of the form of administration as may become desirable or necessary.

The Native Tax Assessment for the year was £15,700.

Owing to maritime strikes, lack of shipping facilities reacted unfavourably on the native banana plantations, and producers were frequently unable to dispose of their fruit. On the other hand native producers of copra were fortunate in obtaining extraordinarily high prices for their copra.

The effects of the influenza epidemic were apparent during the greater part of the year. Towards the end of the year, however, the monthly statistics showed a marked improvement. The actual decrease in population was 268, and the birth-rate for the year was 28·33.

An important event during the year was the return at the end of October of the Contingent of Fijian transport workers who proceeded on active service in May 1917. A glad welcome was extended to them by their fellow countrymen and by the public generally, who were keen to show their appreciation of the meritorious services of the men, and of the part they were able to take in assisting the Empire in its struggle to bring the great war to a victorious conclusion.

V.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty three Ordinances were passed during the year 1919.

The most important of these was the Indian Immigration (Cancellation of Indentures) Ordinance 1919. This Ordinance enables the Governor in Council at any time to cancel the indentures of all or any Indian Immigrants indentured under the Indian Immigration Ordinance 1891. It also includes provision for compensation (from public funds) to the employer.

VI.—EDUCATION.

In 1919 the expenditure on Education was £14,185, as compared with £10,513 in 1918 and £7,207 in 1917. The Secondary Schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 210 in December, 1919; (Boys Grammar School 90, Girls Grammar School with mixed Kindergarten 120). It was not found possible to provide schools in the country districts for European children, but 52 children from the country were boarded in the two Grammar Schools in Suva and the Levuka Public School.

The number of schools admitted to grants in aid under the primary schools Regulations was 4, bringing the total up to 20.

Under the Regulations for Assisted Vernacular Schools made in 1918, two schools were admitted to grants in 1918, and ten more in 1919. Of the twelve, six are for Fijians and six for Indians.

Very little progress has to be recorded in the training of teachers. It has not been possible to establish any Government Assisted Training College, but the Davuilevu Institution of the Methodist Mission drew the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of six students who passed the Teachers Qualifying Examination.

The school work during the year was adversely affected by the influenza epidemic, as a result of which the schools remained closed for an extended period.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the Registration of Schools and Teachers in the Colony, was passed in 1918, and in 1919 Regulations were made under it. Under these Regulations all teachers must seek registration by 31st March 1920, and all schools by 30th June, 1920.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four Joint Provincial Schools, but none of these have as yet been opened.

There are now altogether 39 Government and Assisted Schools, 16 for Indians, 14 for Fijians, 2 receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 7 for Europeans, other races and halfcastes. They have 2,441 pupils, of whom 997 are Indians 818 Fijians, and 626 Europeans, other races and halfcastes. They have 50 European, 24 native and 22 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The number of patients treated in the Colonial Hospital in 1919 was 1,965, of whom 180 were Europeans. The expenditure on the hospital, apart from erection or maintenance of buildings, etc., was £5,809 7*s.* 5*d.*, and the direct revenue was £1,169 15*s.* 0*d.*

At the branch hospital at Levuka, admissions during 1919 were 496.

Native Fijians generally derive medical treatment at the eleven Provincial Hospitals controlled and supervised by district medical officers. During the year some medical officers attached to several of these hospitals were still absent on war service, and in those cases the hospitals were left in charge of native medical practitioners. The number of admissions to provincial hospitals was 2,816.

The lunatic asylum at Suva, under the management of the Resident Medical Officer at the Colonial Hospital, who acts as Superintendent, and a Board of Visitors, receives patients of both sexes of all nationalities. There is separate accommodation for Europeans. During 1919 there were 34 admissions and 19 patients were discharged. The inmates numbered 70 at the close of the year.

The Leper Asylum on the island of Makogai, contained at the end of the year, 352 inmates under the capable management of the Superintendent, Dr. F. Hall, and 6 European Nursing Sisters supplied by the Catholic Mission and 5 Fijian Nursing Sisters, all greatly devoted to their good work. The high degree of efficiency which has marked the Institution since its inception has been maintained. During the year 11 lepers were conditionally discharged from the Asylum.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

The Fiji Constabulary is composed of Fijians and Indians, with European Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors under the command, direction and superintendence of the Inspector General of Constabulary.

The gaol in Suva is under the control and superintendence of the Inspector General of Prisons with a European Superintendent, gaoler and overseers, and native and Indian warders. The provincial gaols are supervised by superintendents, who are generally the European constabulary officers stationed in the various districts. In districts where there are no Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors the District Commissioners are in charge. The number of persons committed in 1919 to the common gaols in Suva and Levuka was 406, as against 351 for the previous year.

Some of the prisoners are employed outside the precincts of the gaols on works of a public character authorised by the Governor. The total value of the work performed by prison labour at Suva Gaol, exclusive of that employed in the prison service, was estimated at £3,359 on the basis of 2*s.* 6*d.* per unit per diem.

The total number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1919, was 5,431. Of the reported offences 1,092 were offences against the person, 629 larceny, 429 against property, other offences 3,281.

5,431 offences were reported in 1919, as against 5,596 in 1918. The number of summary convictions was 2,931, and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 54.

There are 20 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On the 31st December last, there were 246 prisoners confined in the various prisons of the Colony.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1919, as compared with the population at the census taken on the 2nd April, 1911.

	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimated population on 31st December, 1919.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans ..	2,403	1,304	3,707	2,955	1,629	4,584
Half-castes ..	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,443	1,381	2,824
Indians	26,073	14,213	40,286	38,880	23,760	62,640
Polynesians ..	2,429	329	2,758	2,211	433	2,644
Fijians	46,110	40,986	87,096	45,873	41,620	87,493
Rotumans ..	1,043	1,133	2,176	1,070	1,087	2,157
Chinese .. .	276	29	305	830	62	892
Others	457	355	812	240	373	613

Note.—The above figures include 21 Europeans (15 males, 6 females), 27 half-castes, (16 males, 11 females), and 91 others (70 males, 21 females) at Rotuma.

Total population at census 1911	139,541
Total estimated population 31st December, 1919	163,847
Increase ..	24,306

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1919 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 138·18 inches, as against 103·84 inches in 1918, and 162·05 inches in 1917. This rainfall is 25 inches above the average, and fell on 248 days, the average number for 35 years. The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 8·35 inches on the 19th October, 1919.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 84·9 per cent., being practically the same as for the two previous years.

The month of April showed most rain with 26·76 inches, and May least with 3·10 inches.

The year was a wet one throughout what is known as the wet zone, with rain distributed more or less evenly through the whole period, the dry season being not well marked. Such, however, was not the case in other parts of the group where the year was a dry one. In many parts no rain fell at all in May, and the latter end of the year showed very much less rainfall than usual.

The following is a statement showing the average rainfall through the Colony.

Station.	Total for 1919.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1919.
	Inches.	Inches.
Wainunu	142·66	149·30
Rambi	108·39	157·32
Navua	112·96	142·30
Colo East..	120·37	134·57
Nasinu Experimental Station ..	134·55	130·14
Suva	138·18	113·11
Nausori	127·00	110·98
Waiyevo (Taviuni)	91·01	103·17
Levuka	57·75	88·89
Buca Bay	81·18	99·29
Labasa	69·59	79·66
Rarawai (Ba)	57·77	78·73
Munia	67·58	70·37
Nadroga	54·98	68·48
Lautoka Estate	56·39	64·49
Navisa (Ba)	58·18	87·96
Nadi	39·82	60·21

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 71·3 deg. F. minimum, and 81·3 deg. F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·3 deg. F. The highest temperature recorded was 90·6 deg. F. on the 30th January, and the lowest was 59·8 deg. F. on the 23rd August. The hottest month was March, with an average temperature of 86·0 deg. F. maximum, and 74·3 deg. F. minimum, and the coolest month was August, with an average of 76·3 deg. F. maximum, and 68·4 deg. F. minimum.

XI.—POST, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

Postal.—British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines : the Canadian Australian line ; the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited ; the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company Limited, and occasionally by vessels of other Companies.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom, Europe, and United States and Canada are received and despatched once in every four weeks by the Canadian Australian Line to and from Vancouver. Since the War, the receipt and despatch of mails to the United Kingdom via Australia has been discontinued.

Direct mail communication with Australia is frequent and regular. With New Zealand there is regular but not frequent communication.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer or cutter services and overland mail carrier services in the larger islands.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian Australian Line, and the vessels are exempted from the payment of certain dues. A subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum, increased from £4,500 in 1917, is paid to the Australian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji-Sydney and Melbourne, and Interinsular steam services.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last two years:—

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers, Books, Book Packets, etc.	Parcels.	Total.
1918	1,175,348	856,616	30,149	2,062,113
1919	1,109,222	783,433	23,204	1,915,859

The total value of money orders and postal orders issued and paid in the Colony during each of the last two years was as follows:—

Money Orders.

Year.	Issued in the Colony. Value. £	Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1918	46,905	14,124
1919	40,651	15,281

Postal Orders.

Year.	Issued in the Colony. Value. £	Paid in the Colony. Value. £
1918	4,012	1,208
1919	3,547	1,244

The number of Post Offices at the end of 1919 was 66, which included 16 money order offices and 16 postal order offices, and 24 offices to which dutiable parcels were forwarded for delivery and collection of duty.

Telegraph and Telephones.—Telegraphic communication exists between Suva and Levuka, a distance of 54 miles, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable.

An overland telephone line extends from Suva to Lautoka, a distance of 125 miles, via Nausori (on the Rewa River), Nadarivatu and Ba. The line from Suva to Ba is controlled by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company. From Lautoka the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has extended the line towards Sigatoka.

Telephone services controlled by the Government in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taviuni have been established.

There are four wireless stations in the group, at Suva, Labasa, Taviuni, and Savu Savu, erected at the expense of general revenue and controlled by the Government.

The Pacific Cable Board has a station at Suva, which is connected by cable with Vancouver, via Fanning Island, and with Southport (Queensland) and Auckland via Norfolk Island.

XII.—GENERAL.

The early months of the year were marked by the epidemic of influenza, which continued its ravages until March when it gradually subsided. Medical relief parties from New Zealand and Australia, under Colonel Jennings and Major Alexander respectively, continued their good work until the end. Medical officers generally worked at exceedingly high pressure and, in many districts, under stupendous difficulties arising from the lack of means of conveyance. Their efforts, together with those of voluntary workers, organised by European Committees for service throughout the group amongst natives and Indians, were the means of saving many lives.

It is estimated that the number of deaths, and the respective percentages were as follows :—

	Population.	Deaths.	per cent.
Europeans	4,824	69	1·41
Halfcastes	2,756	76	2·75
Fijians	91,013	5,154	5·66
Indians	61,153	2,553	4·17
Others	4,226	293	6·93

The expenditure incurred in respect of the epidemic was £15,775.

Owing to disorganised shipping, due in the first place to the influenza epidemic and later to maritime strikes in Australia, a large section of the community, especially banana planters and shippers, suffered not inconsiderable loss.

Shortage of foodstuffs, due partly to the same cause, created some difficulty, which, so far as the Indian community was concerned, was eased by the Government arranging for supplies of rice being obtained from Rangoon. In this way, and through the good offices of the Government of India, it was possible to import 330 tons during the year which was distributed to consumers, of whom the Indian population forms the bulk, at a cost of 3*d.* per lb.

In Fiji as elsewhere the cost of living continued to increase, and caused some distress amongst various sections of the community. Some control of prices was possible under the provisions of the Necessary Commodities Ordinance of 1915, but the increased rates of freights to Fiji from the neighbouring Dominions, and the higher cost of importing commodities to the Colony, rendered it difficult to keep the cost of living entirely within the means of all sections of the community. Not a little, however, has been done towards increasing local production which, it is hoped, will to some extent render the Colony less dependent upon outside agencies for a portion of its food supply.

An important event, and a source of great general satisfaction, was the visit to Fiji during October of Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Jellicoe of Scapa, and Lady Jellicoe in H.M.S. "New Zealand." The enthusiastic welcome accorded to the illustrious visitors by all classes and races of the community, expressed in no unmeasured terms the genuine gratitude which this distant portion of the Empire owes to His Majesty's Navy for the Colony's security and protection during the War.

On the 31st December, a glad welcome was extended by local residents to all the returned sailors and soldiers, who assembled in Suva and were entertained at public expense. The occasion provided the opportunity for delivering to all the gracious message of welcome to their homes from His Majesty the King, a copy of which was handed to each man.

T. E. Fell.
Colonial Secretary.

30th July, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	,,
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	,,
1019	Bermuda	,,
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern Part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

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No. 1080.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1047.)

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No. 1080.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year amounted to £488,753, or £73,321 in excess of the revenue for 1919. This is due almost entirely to the big increase of £87,128 in Customs receipts; as against this, however, there was a falling-off of £16,899 under the heads of Stamp Duty and Hut Tax. Other sources showed but slight variation.

The Expenditure amounted to £611,944, or £123,191 more than the revenue received. The main causes for this large excess were the cost of repatriation of Indian immigrants, the increased cost of public services due to the rise in prices since the framing of the Estimates, the industrial strike among the Indians, and the loss on rice imported by Government and sold at pre-war prices. As a result, the excess of Assets over Liabilities was reduced on the 31st December, 1920, to £19,040.

As compared with the previous year, the total revenue and expenditure were as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1919 ..	.. £415,432	.. £440,232
1920 ..	.. £488,753	.. £611,944

The greater part of the Colony's surplus balances is invested in England, the nominal amount of stock held on 31st December last being £118,242. In addition, certain deposits made by or on behalf of natives, through the Native Secretariat, are also invested in stock of the nominal value of £8,248.

On 31st December last the whole of the £150,000 debentures issued in 1880 had been repaid, but on 8th July, 1920, a fresh loan for £150,000, bearing interest at 5½ per cent. was floated, under Ordinance No. 8 of 1920, for the purpose of carrying out certain Public Works.

In addition to this amount of £150,000 the Colony has received from the Imperial Government an advance of £200,000 against a loan to be raised to meet a part of the cost of the Suva Harbour Works and Drainage Works. Of this sum the Suva Municipal Council is liable for £39,788 3*s*. 2*d*., being the cost of the drainage works. The public debt of the Colony amounted therefore to £310,211 16*s*. 10*d*.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd.7622-39.)

The currency and coin in circulation are English sterling. The two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales—have, temporarily, a private note issue, and the value of notes in circulation on 31st December, 1920, amounted to £39,818. The issue will probably be withdrawn very shortly. The Government Currency Notes in circulation at the close of the year amounted to £372,868, as compared with £149,868 at the end of the year 1919.

As against the Government Note Issue the Commissioners of Currency held on 31st December, 1920, £80,967 in gold and stock to the nominal value of £224,309. An amount of £101,250 was in transit for, or awaiting, investment on the last day of the year.

During the year under review an additional branch of the Government Savings Bank was opened at Ba. There are now twelve branches of this institution, having, in all, 1913 accounts amounting to £41,586 as against £26,851 at the close of the previous year. The total amount deposited during the year was £44,959, exceeding deposits in 1919 by £19,604.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during each of the years 1919 and 1920.

Name of Import.	1919.	1920.
	£	£
Bags and sacks	21,059	77,046
Boots and shoes	8,421	13,141
Biscuits, flour, sharps and pollard	107,485	133,484
Butter and ghee	25,638	19,667
Coal	38,939	44,478
Drapery	199,809	319,801
Drugs	8,712	10,648
Fish	13,553	28,686
Galvanised iron and manufactures	15,955	27,277
Hardware	43,358	65,030
Live-stock	8,521	14,164
Machinery	39,953	72,242
Manure	19,146	36,840
Meats	19,856	34,232
Oils	45,994	79,264
Rice	36,608	32,012
Soap	4,261	7,283
Spirits	17,637	31,599
Stationery	12,772	15,550
Timber	18,721	77,231
Tobacco (excluding cigars and cigarettes)	17,914	37,254
Vegetables and fruit (preserved and green)	21,460	26,537

(3948) Wt. 15551/575 625 8/21 Harrow G.75

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£	*Tons.*	£	£
1919 ..	64,348	1,014,240	27,311	674,215	76,563
1920 ..	72,985	2,092,990	14,666	508,830	95,315

The number of bunches of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, was as follows :—

Year.	*Bunches.*
1919	612,795
1920	759,830

Other principal domestic exports were as follows :—

	1919.		1920.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Maize	9,822 bush.	1,841	42,732 bush.	11,499
Bêche de mer ..	420 cwt.	2,121	2,329 cwt.	17,545
Trocas shell ..	417 tons	20,764	360 tons	28,244
Rubber	1,395 cwt.	13,867	1,319 cwt.	16,939
Molasses	7,812 tons	7,812	12,699 tons	12,713

The total imports and exports for each of the past two years are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
	£	£	£
1919	1,060,314	1,871,062	2,931,376
1920	1,673,121	2,896,448	4,569,569

The amount of Customs duties levied during each of the past two years was as follows :—

Year.	Customs duties levied on imports.	Customs duties levied on exports.
	£	£
1919	158,094	47,353
1920	215,621	77,225

77·19 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony during 1920 was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

16·68 per cent. of the total trade was with foreign countries, chiefly the United States of America.

The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom decreased from 7·77 per cent. in 1919 to 5·78 per cent. in 1920, that with British Possessions increased from 65·99 per cent. in 1919 to 77·19 per cent. in 1920, and that with foreign countries fell from 25·62 per cent. in 1919 to 16·68 per cent. in 1920.

Although there is a falling-off of exports to the United Kingdom as compared with 1919, there is, on the other hand, an increase in the value of imports from there.

AGRICULTURAL.

Sugar.

Although the quantity of raw sugar exported during 1920 exceeds the average quantity exported during the ten previous years, it does not equal the quantity exported during 1917 by 24,349 tons. The value has, however, considerably increased. The future prospects of this industry depend upon labour conditions, which are at present very unsettled.

Coconuts.

The coconut industry continues to flourish and the price of copra remained high throughout the year. Every year fresh land is brought under cultivation, and with continued freedom from pests, the industry, which requires the minimum of labour, is attracting increasing numbers of settlers to the Colony.

The export of copra is the second largest of the Colony. Although there was a decrease during the year of 12,645 tons as compared with the record year 1919, this decrease would not have been so marked had not the figures for 1919 been swollen by the large stocks carried over from the previous year in local stores. The actual production of the Colony during 1919 was probably about 23,000 tons.

Bananas.

Although the quantity of bananas shipped during the year slightly exceeds that of 1919, the volume of trade has fallen considerably below the standard of previous years, and is due to the unsettled shipping conditions caused by strikes in Australia, which resulted in the loss of large numbers of bananas.

Experiments are being made in the drying and preserving of bananas, and it is hoped that there may be a future in this direction for the banana industry. At present it is being threatened by maritime strikes and the high Australian tariff.

Rice.

The situation in regard to the supply of rice, which was acute in 1918, was relieved somewhat during the year by a good local harvest. Towards the end of the year the retail price of rice fell below the figure fixed by the Necessary Commodities Commission, and the supply of rice is now plentiful.

The policy of encouraging the local production of rice has been continued, and, with a view to safeguarding the Indian population against the hardship caused by the excessive cost of imported rice, the Government has commenced, on its own account, the cultivation of rice in the two districts which are most suitable for the cultivation. The proximity of the markets in Australia and New Zealand for the sale of rice has not been lost sight of.

Maize.

The quantity exported exceeds that exported during 1919 by 33,000 bushels. This large increase is attributed to the high market price ruling in Australia and New Zealand. Large quantities of maize can be grown in Fiji. During the year an attempt was made, with some degree of success, to prepare maize flour for sale in the local market as a substitute for sharps.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Rubber.

The trees continue to give satisfactory results, and rubber-growing in Fiji affords prospects of satisfactory returns on capital invested. Some hundreds of acres of rubber have been planted during the past few years, but the produce from this increased area will not affect the amount exported for a few years.

Sici or Trocas Shell.

The export of this shell has decreased as compared with 1919. The reduction is due to the great fall of price in Japan, which is the principal market for this class of shell. In previous years the price of sici shell varied between £30 and £40 per ton. At the beginning of the year, the price rose to £80 per ton, and many natives were induced by the high price offering to enter the industry. In the middle of the year, however, the commodity became almost unsaleable, and the amount offering for export dropped away accordingly.

Other items of minor importance in the list of exports are 6,466 hides valued at £7,183 and 194 cattle valued at £1,878.

LAND AND LAND TENURE.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and after the deed of cession Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued.

In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

In 1875 further sales of native land were prohibited by Ordinance, and the only tenure granted was leasehold for a period not exceeding 21 years. This short term of lease did not conduce to rapid settlement, and between 1876 and 1896 only 100 leases were issued for about 13,000 acres, of which 7,000 acres were taken up for sugar cane, and 4,200 acres for timber.

By Ordinance 4 of 1905, settlers were able to acquire leases up to 99 years direct from natives, the agreement to lease being subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

The same Ordinance permitted sales of native land, and between 1905 and 1909, 20,184 acres were purchased by settlers, bringing the total area of land held on freehold title up to 434,799 acres.

Subsequent to 1909 no further sales of native land under the provisions of the 1905 Ordinance were permitted. Ordinance No. 3 of 1912 forbids the sale of native land except to the Government.

The standard tenure now is leasehold up to 99 years with reassessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. Tenants whose leases were approaching expiry and who were desirous of planting permanent crops such as rubber or coconuts were deterred from doing so owing to the uncertainty of their leases being renewed. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor in Council may issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

The present method of obtaining a native lease is for the intending settler to lodge an application with the Commissioner of Lands or a District Commissioner for the land he desires to lease. After ascertaining particulars in regard to ownership, the owners in District Council are invited to place the land at the disposal of the Governor in Council to lease on their behalf; and if the land is handed over the Government proceeds to fix the rent and terms of the lease which is then put up to auction, usually at an upset premium of £1 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Except for town allotments there is rarely any competition at auction and the applicant usually becomes the lessee, and is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land. The system of auction is dispensed with in cases where the area of the land applied for is small, and the applicant is an East Indian. The Government holds "open to settlement" some 180,000 acres of land in different parts of the Colony, suited for such varied purposes as cattle and sheep runs, coconut, rubber, and banana cultivations. Some of the land has been surveyed and classified.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 3*d*. to 2*s*. per acre, coconut lands from 1*s*. to 5*s*., hill land for rubber, from 6*d*. to 2*s*., banana, sugar cane, rice, and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total lands alienated to settlers exceed one-seventh of the area of the Colony. Three-sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and in any case a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two-sevenths are mountainous but suited for cattle.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1920:—

Title.	On 31st December, 1920.	
	No. of Lots.	Area.
		Acres.
Freehold	1,560	526,894
Native leases	5,415	263,886*
Crown leases	137	8,569*
Total	7,112	799,349
Area held by Crown open to settlement, not the subject of any title .. .. .. about	—	120,000
Unalienated land still held by native owners, about	—	3,604,271
Total area of Colony	—	4,523,620

* To arrive at the actual position on 31st December, 1920, it is necessary to add to the native leases 1,534 leases for 18,331 acres (estimated) and to the Crown leases 55 leases for 8,982 acres (estimated) approved but awaiting survey or execution.

III.—IMMIGRATION.

Immigration from India of labourers under a system of indenture has ceased. On 2nd January, 1920, all indentures then existing were cancelled.

The total population of East Indians on the last day of 1920 was 59,675 (males 36,783; females 22,892, including children).

The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was 62·19 females to every 100 males.

The s.s. *Ganges* and *Torilla* were chartered to take repatriates back to India. The *Ganges* made three trips and the *Torilla* made one. The total number of immigrants returned to India during the year was :—

s.s. *Ganges* I	936 souls ..	821½ Statute adults
,, ,, II	939 ,, ..	828½ ,, ,,
,, ,, III	965 ,, ..	828½ ,, ,,
s.s. *Torilla*	1,901 ,, ..	1,600 ,, ,,
Total	4,741 ,, ..	4,078½ ,, ,,

The death-rate per cent. among East Indian immigrants during the year was ·65.

By Ordinance No. 34 of 1920 the Government extended for a further ten years the period within which those immigrants who had arrived in the Colony after the passing of Ordinance No. 6 of 1906, were entitled to claim a return passage to India at the expense of the Government of Fiji.

IV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The form of native administration remains unchanged. Based on a system conforming to the so-called communistic mode of native life, it conforms to those customs and usages which have been regarded as desirable. Any remodification of the system must necessarily be in keeping with native temperament and must be of a conservative rather than of a radical nature. As has been reported previously, indications are not wanting of a distinct development of native character, which, although docile and highly amenable to the orders of constituted authority, inclines slowly towards individualistic interests. Superficially, at any rate, the Fijian, during the 46 years of British rule, has taken a long stride forward, but the elements in his character which rendered the system of native administration at the beginning of British rule both wise and necessary, in the greater part still remain. It is the policy, however, through a process of education and training, to create in the native an incentive to energy, and to grant to him more individual liberty. By this means there may evolve a greater scope for individual initiative than is to be found in a purer communism which restricted natives from absenting themselves from their villages, regardless of proffered reasons, when, by permitting such absence there was danger of depleting the man-power of a village to a level insufficient to maintain cleanliness and sanitation. Now, however, where considerations of individual interest conflict with communistic demands, they are not unduly discouraged, and the wish of the individual being thus the prime consideration is allowed precedence over communal interests so long as suitable provision is made for the welfare of dependants.

In a largely increasing degree the Fijian native is becoming a factor in the labour markets of the Colony, and during the year under review some 2,000 men hired their services under varying periods of contract. For the ordinary purposes of daily life, however, there is no apparent need for the performance of any more work than the native at present performs, but the need will grow with the development of the native mind, the development bringing with it inevitably tastes that demand satisfaction. It seems, therefore, in some districts at least, although not in others, that the Fijian appears to have reached the height of prosperity commensurate with his degree of development.

The work of the Native Lands Commission has progressed as satisfactorily as circumstances have permitted, the surveys of Lomaiviti and Tailevu South having been almost completed notwithstanding the great scarcity of surveyors, whilst investigation work has proceeded in the Provinces of Naitasiri and Macuata. There can be no doubt whatsoever that the completion of surveys of mataqali lands and the registration of holdings will go far towards promoting a greater interest among Fijians in their own general and individual advancement. Where surveys have been completed and registered, and ownership thus definitely settled, indications of this condition are distinctly apparent. In closely settled Provinces where the work of the Commission has been entirely accomplished, the leasing of native land and the distribution of native rents, formerly an extremely difficult matter, are now greatly facilitated. Of the areas already surveyed in the Provinces of Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Nadroga, and Colo West, 20,726½ acres have been found to be the property of the Crown through the extinction of mataqalis since the date of cession, whilst in the same surveyed areas 39,554 acres have been found to have been unoccupied land at the date of cession and have since remained unoccupied. These latter areas are now under the control of the Government on behalf of natives generally, the revenue accruing therefrom being devoted to such purposes as the Governor may direct. In addition to these areas, other large quantities of land that have become the property of the Crown as *ultimus hæres* as well as further acres of vacant land, lie within unsurveyed lands in respect of which the Commission has completed its investigations.

The triennial Council of Chiefs was held during October for the purpose of nominating Fijian members to the Legislative Council. Resolutions affecting the disposal of native lands and education were submitted for the consideration of the Governor.

V.—LEGISLATION.

Forty Ordinances were passed during the year 1920. The principle of taxation on incomes was adopted for the first time in the history of the Colony by the Income Tax Bill.

VI.—EDUCATION.

In 1920 the expenditure on education was £19,990 as compared with £14,185 in 1919 and £10,513 in 1918. The secondary schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 219 in December, 1920 (Boys' Grammar School, 103; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed Kindergarten, 116). The Colonial Sugar Refining Company's School for European children at Rarawai, Ba, was taken over by the Government in 1919, and 68 children from the country were boarded in the two Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

Twenty schools have been admitted to grants in aid under the Primary Schools Regulations and 21 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter 13 are for Fijians and eight for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government Assisted Training College, but the Davuilevu Institution of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of 11 Fijian and seven Indian students who passed the Teachers' Qualifying Examination. Government assistance has also been given towards the expenses and maintenance of seven Indian students who have been sent to India to study at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute and to one Fijian student at Hawkesbury Agricultural College in New South Wales.

The school work during the year was adversely affected by the Australian shipping strike at the beginning of the year, as a result of which most of the teachers, who were on vacation in Australia, were not able to return and schools were not opened until the 8th March. In December, 26 candidates sat for the Cambridge Local Examinations, Preliminary and Junior.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918, and in 1919 Regulations were made under it. The work of registration is being proceeded with, 379 schools and 655 teachers having been registered during the year.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four Joint Provincial Schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of sites, building materials and staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools will be in operation in 1921.

There are now altogether 48 Government and Assisted Schools, 21 being for Indians, 21 for Fijians, two receiving both Indians and Fijians, and four for Europeans, other races and half-castes, They have 2,960 pupils, of whom 1,086 are Indians, 1,247 are Fijians, and 627 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 47 European, 33 native and 23 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers and instruction is given in the vernacular.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Colonial Hospital in Suva provides separate accommodation for European, Indian and Fijian patients. There are also four private wards. During the year, 2,235 patients, of whom 156 were Europeans, were admitted for treatment. The expenditure on the hospital, exclusive of the cost of maintenance of buildings, amounted to £6,267 16*s*. 6*d*., and the direct revenue was £1,263 6*s*. 9*d*.

At Levuka there is a branch hospital, to which the admissions during the year amounted to 481.

The War Memorial of the Colony is to take the form of an up-to-date hospital in Suva, with fully-equipped hospitals established in the principal settlements throughout the Group. Up to the present the public of Fiji have subscribed £19,000 for this purpose.

Native Fijians generally obtain medical treatment at the eleven Provincial Hospitals controlled and supervised by District Medical Officers. Owing to shortage in staff, several of these hospitals were left in charge of native medical practitioners during the year.

The Lunatic Asylum at Suva is under the management of the Resident Medical Officer at the Colonial Hospital, and is under the supervision of a Board of Visitors appointed by the Governor. During 1920, 39 persons were admitted and 14 were discharged. There is separate accommodation for Europeans.

The Government Leper Asylum is situated on the Island of Makogai, and is under the management of the Superintendent, Dr. Harper, who is assisted by eight European Nursing Sisters and six Fijian Nursing Sisters, all greatly devoted to their good work. The institution is efficiently conducted, and the health and happiness of the patients receive the utmost attention. During the year 11 lepers were conditionally discharged from the asylum.

VIII.—CRIMINAL AND POLICE.

Police.

Police duties are carried out by the Fiji Constabulary, a semi-military force composed of European, Fijian and Indian members under the command of European Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, and under the direction and supervision of the Inspector-General.

Gaols.

Under the system at present in force, short-sentence prisoners are detained in the Provincial Gaol of the district in which they are sentenced. All prisoners of sentences exceeding six months are sent to a central gaol in Suva which is under the control of the Superintendent of Gaols. The Provincial Gaols are under the control of the Senior Member of the Constabulary stationed there. Where there is no European member of the Constabulary, the Provincial Gaol is under the control of the District Commissioner.

Prisoners are employed on public works authorised by the Governor, and in the manufacture of articles for use in Government Departments. The total value of the work performed by prison labour in the gaols of the Colony, exclusive of that utilised in the Prison Service, is estimated at £7,789 2*s*. 6*d*. on the basis of 2*s*. 6*d*. per unit per diem.

5,217 offences were reported in 1920 as against 5,431 in 1919. The number of summary convictions was 5,135, and the number of convictions in the Supreme Court was 82. There are 20 proclaimed prisons within the Colony. On 31st December last there were 290 prisoners confined in the various prisons of the Colony.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the estimated population at the end of 1920, as compared with the population at the census taken on 2nd April, 1911.

	Census on 2nd April, 1911.			Estimated population on 31st December, 1920.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total
Europeans ..	2,403	1,304	3,707	3,284	1,810	5,094
Half-castes ..	1,217	1,184	2,401	1,451	1,383	2,834
Polynesians ..	2,429	329	2,758	1,976	564	2,540
Fijians ..	46,110	40,986	87,096	46,457	42,223	88,680
Rotumans ..	1,043	1,133	2,176	1,136	974	2,110
Indians ..	26,073	14,213	40,286	36,874	22,821	59,695
Chinese ..	276	29	305	883	59	942
Others ..	457	355	812	217	492	709

Note.—The above figures include 20 Europeans (16 males, 4 females), 21 half-castes (13 males, 8 females) and 90 others (46 males, 44 females) at Rotuma.

Total population at census, 1911 ..	139,541
Total estimated population at 31st December, 1920	162,604
Increase	23,063

It is estimated that the number of deaths for the year, and the respective percentages, were as follows :—

	Population.	Deaths.	Per cent.
Europeans	5,074	40	·78
Half-castes	2,813	10	·35
Fijians	88,569	2,029	2·29
Indians	59,682	389	·65
Others	4,001	47	·87

X.—CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1920 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 108·45 in., as against 138·18 in. in 1919 and 103·84 in. in 1918. This rainfall is 4·53 in. below the average, and rain fell on 262 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 5·59 in. on 29th May, 1920.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 86·9 per cent., being slightly above the two previous years.

The month of April showed most rain with 18·47 in., and June least with 2·95 in.

The year was a normal one throughout, very little rain falling during June, July and August.

The following is a statement showing the average rainfall throughout the Colony :—

Station.	Total for 1920.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1920.
	in.	in.
Rambi	108·25	154·25
Navua	111·01	124·99
Nasinu Experimental Station ..	120·30	129·42
Suva	108·45	112·98
Nausori	105·25	110·76
Salia Levu (Taviuni)	274·85	214·44
Buca Bay	98·08	99·13
Labasa	76·06	79·52
Rarawai (Ba)	62·01	78·09
Munia	53·70	69·69
Nadroga	53·20	67·38
Lautoka Estate	75·00	65·02
Navisa (Ba)	62·35	85·38

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 70·7° F. minimum, and 81·1° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 75·9° F. The highest temperature recorded was 91·0° F. on 4th March and the lowest was 55·0° F. on 3rd July. The hottest month was March, with an average temperature of 85·4° F. maximum and 73·8° F. minimum and the coolest month was June, with an average of 76·7° F. maximum and 67·6° F. minimum.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1919.		1920.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	103	257,448	113	316,877
American	35	18,789	34	20,843
Norwegian	—	—	—	—
Japanese	—	—	—	—
Belgian	1	277	—	—
	139	276,514	147	337,720

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

	1919.		1920.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels ..	96	1,671	91	1,787
Native-owned vessels	78	606	77	673
Chinese-owned vessels	19	157	15	120
Indian-owned vessels	10	48	8	42
Japanese-owned vessels ..	8	75	9	79
Total	211	2,557	200	2,701

During no less than five months of the year shipping with Australia was interrupted by maritime strikes in that country. The prosperity and progress of the Colony are adversely affected by the frequent cessation of communication with the neighbouring Dominions as the result of these strikes.

The question of establishing direct communication with the United Kingdom is still receiving the attention of the Government, and it is hoped that a regular service of cargo vessels, which will materially benefit the Colony, not only by reducing the high cost of living owing to cheaper freights, but also by opening up new markets for its produce, will shortly be inaugurated.

Postal.

Steamers of the following lines, the Canadian-Australian line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, convey mails between Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand. Opportunity is taken also, whenever possible, of despatching mails by visiting vessels.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer and cutter services, and on the larger islands mails are carried by runners, and on the north side of Vitilevu by train.

A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian line, and its vessels, moreover, are exempted from the payment of certain dues. A subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum was given to the Australian United Steamship Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the Fiji-Sydney and Melbourne, and Interinsular steam services during the year.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matters during the last two years :—

Year.	Letters and Postcards.	Newspapers, Books, Packets, etc.	Parcels.	Total.
1919.. ..	1,109,222	783,433	23,204	1,915,859
1920.. ..	1,291,910	807,051	29,402	2,128,363

The total value of the money orders and postal orders issued and paid in the Colony during each of the last two years was as follows :—

Money Orders.

Year.	Issued in the Colony. Value.	Paid in the Colony. Value.
	£	£
1919	40,651	15,281
1920	51,775	15,276

Postal Orders.

Year.	Issued in the Colony. Value.	Paid in the Colony. Value.
	£	£
1919	3,547	1,244
1920	3,643	891

The number of Post Offices at the end of 1920 was 66, which included 15 money order offices and 15 postal order offices, and 20 offices to which dutiable parcels were forwarded for delivery and collection of duty.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which eleven and a half miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Viti Levu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka. An agreement is now under consideration whereby the line from Suva to Ba will become the property of the Government and a more satisfactory service afforded to the public by an increased expenditure on maintenance.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Lautoka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taviuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line to Suva, and at Labasa, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements throughout the Colony, viz., Labasa, Taviuni, and Savu Savu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control, and it is proposed to increase the service by the erection of stations at Loma Loma in the Lau Group, and Rotuma.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia and New Zealand through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

XII.—GENERAL.

The outstanding event of the year was the visit to the Colony on 20th April of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The residents of these islands are seldom afforded an opportunity of demonstrating to an Heir to the Throne the loyalty and devotion with which the Throne is regarded, and the news of the visit was received with great enthusiasm by all races. The visit was of particular interest to the Fijian race, who remember, and still discuss, the visit in 1881 of his Royal Highness's illustrious father.

Dense crowds from all parts of The Group welcomed His Royal Highness to Fiji, and, although the weather was unpropitious, ceremonies, on a hitherto unprecedented scale, in which all classes and races of the community participated, were held in honour of the visit.

On the return of H.M.S. *Renown* from Australia in August, a second visit was paid to Fiji. On this occasion, at the request of His Royal Highness, no official functions were held.

On 15th January a strike of Indians caused the cessation of all work on the south side of the Island of Vitilevu. The initial cause of the strike was attributed to the increase in the cost of living as compared with the increase in wages earned. Racial propaganda, however, complicated the situation and led to spasmodic outbreaks of rowdyism and rioting. The strike ended in the second week in February.

During the strike a Commission was appointed to investigate the increase in the cost of living. The Report of the Commission was printed and laid on the table of the Legislative Council. As compared with pre-war conditions, the Commission found that the cost of living had increased, in the case of Europeans 63-77 per cent., and of Indians 86 per cent.

With a view also to enabling the wage-earning classes, more particularly the Indian community, to meet the high cost of living, the Government decided to repeal the Hut Tax Ordinance, and to admit, free of import duty, all essential foodstuffs.

Later in the year a Commission was appointed to take evidence on, and to report upon, the best means of granting the franchise to the Indian community with a view to representation, by two elected members, on the Legislative Council. Meetings were held in Suva and Lautoka. A Report by the Commission has been laid on the table of the Legislative Council, and is receiving consideration.

Mr. H. E. Dale, C.B., appointed by the Secretary of State as Commissioner to report on the organisation and pay of the Civil Service of the Colony, arrived in Fiji early in the year. On the recommendations made by him in a preliminary report, Civil Servants were granted a bonus on salary as from the beginning of the year. A full report on reorganisation of the Civil Service is at present receiving the consideration of the Government.

The Legislative Council elections were held in September, and resulted in the return of four members of the previous Council, and the election of three new members to the Council.

The installation of a Municipal Electrical Power Station and the lighting of the town of Suva by electric light during the year, mark a step forward in the progress of the Colony.

J. McOWAN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

17*th June*, 1921.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1044	Bermuda	1919
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
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1055	Malta	1919–1920
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1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	,,
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1062	Mauritius	,,
1063	St. Vincent	April-December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	,,
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1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
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1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919–1920
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1130.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1080.)

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No. 1130.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1921.*

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About forty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the island of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The island of Rotuma lies between 12 and 15° south and 175 and 180° east, and is a dependency of Fiji.

The Colony is comprised of dry and wet zones, each distinctly marked by the nature and density of its vegetation. In many places throughout the larger islands the change from the forest lands of the wet belt to the reeded country of the dry is so abrupt as to cause a dividing line that is visible for many miles. The class of scenery to be found in each zone is remarkable generally for its beauty. In the dry areas reeded slopes rising from the sea to the top of undulating hills which fringe upon its shores indicate a fertility of soil presenting great possibilities. These reed-covered lands provide for the natives a constant and an almost inexhaustible source of wild indigenous root foods including many of high nutritive value. From the hill-tops of these fringing ridges a pleasant view unfolds itself. Rich valleys, intersected by winding streams, are either uncultivated or are interspersed with cultivated clearings, but in either case brilliantly verdant; the graceful fern tree, the feathery bamboo, and the prolific luxuriance of the undergrowth combine to present a more than passingly pleasant view. In the rugged highlands of the wet area, where the rainfall varies from 100 to 150 inches a year and where forest-clad mountains rise

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd. 7622-39.)

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boldly to a height of between 4,000 and 5,000 feet, grow many trees of value unnoticed and unprized. Here also are the evidences of a bountiful Nature. The forests of Fiji, although as yet but lightly explored, yield useful timber, both hard and soft, in considerable quantity, and it is more than possible that a scientific survey of the mountain ranges would reveal the existence of much that is of considerable commercial value. Throughout these mountain areas, traversed as they are by native paths, the scenery is notable for its splendour. Innumerable mountain streams of clear rushing water make their way through cleft and gorge, finally to meet one or other of the great rivers where they join in the rush to the sea.

The islands of Fiji are girt by coral-reefs over the seaward edge of which the Pacific breakers curl and waves pitch with a ceaseless and a heavy fall. Inside the barrier the calm waters of the lagoon lie in strange contrast to the rolling seas outside. They provide an intricate though a safe seaway under the waters of which in many places spread beautiful subaqueous gardens, a delight to the traveller, and a haven for the myriads of multi-coloured fish which inhabit them. Passing through these protected shores a variety of landscape unfolds itself, the luxuriant and cheerful beauty of the lowlands gives place to the gloomy grandeur and the unbroken solitude of the mountains; mangrove borders alternate with stretches of beach with succeeding narrow vales beyond. The whole forms an interesting and a pleasing prospect.

Historical.

The existence of the Fiji Islands was first made known by Tasman, who sailed through the Northern Islands of the Group in 1643. Captain Cook visited the Islands in 1769. At the beginning of the nineteenth century visits from sailing vessels trading in sandal-wood—at that time abundant in Fiji—became frequent. The native, however, had acquired, perhaps justly, an unenviable reputation for savagery and cruelty, and European settlers were few until the middle of the century.

In 1835 Missionary Societies gained a footing in the Islands, and by the year 1860 a few of the hill tribes only remained unconverted to Christianity.

Prior to the advent of Europeans, Fiji was divided into several large independent kingdoms, between which internecine strife was continuous; but, with the assistance of the early settlers, Cakobau, the Chief of the Kingdom of Bau, was able to reduce his immediate rivals to quietude, if not submission, and, later to proclaim himself King of Fiji.

The high price of cotton, following on the American Civil War, led to a large influx of European settlers for the purpose of growing cotton, and, in 1870, it is estimated there were 3,000 to 4,000 Europeans settled throughout the Group.

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A Constitution on European lines was drawn up in 1871 under the Native Monarchy and a Parliament was elected. The Constitution, however, speedily proved unworkable under the existing conditions, and the Ministers endeavoured to carry on the Government without the Parliament. The internal dissensions between the Europeans which were fast bringing about a state of anarchy and disorder, and the presence of Maafu, a Tongan Chief who had acquired mastery over the Lau Islands and threatened, with the assistance of certain Fijian allies, to overcome the remainder of the group, led to a renewal of the demand for the annexation of the group by Great Britain which had been refused ten years earlier.

In 1873, in response to the agitation for annexation, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commander Goodenough and Mr. E. L. Layard, Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the proposal. These Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported an offer of the cession of the Group, and in September, Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of New South Wales, arrived in Fiji to arrange the terms of the cession.

On the 10th day of October, 1874, the sovereignty of the Islands was ceded to Her Majesty Queen Victoria by King Cakobau, and all the leading Fijian Chiefs, including Maafu, the Chief of Lau. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty, and Fiji was created a Crown Colony. From 1874 the Colony has remained uninterruptedly under British control.

Constitution.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916.

The Executive Council in 1921 consisted of the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council consisted of the Governor and eleven nominated official members, seven elected members, two Fijian members nominated from those persons elected by the Council of Chiefs, and an Indian member nominated by the Governor.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

Local Administration

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal

Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education appointed by the Governor directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorised to pass bye-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by local Road Boards appointed in each district.

General Observations.

During 1921 the Government was administered by Sir Cecil Rodwell, K.C.M.G., until his departure to England on leave on the 24th May, when I assumed the administration as Acting Governor. Mr. Islay McOwan, British Consular Agent at Tonga, acted as Colonial Secretary during the absence of the Governor from the Colony.

In February the Indians employed in the sugar industry at Ba ceased work without notice. The strike rapidly spread to adjoining sugar districts, and before the end of the month the western and northern sugar districts of the Island of Vitilevu from Ra to Sigatoka were affected. No demands were put forward by the strikers until the strike had extended for several weeks, and when eventually presented were of so extravagant a nature as to afford no reasonable basis of discussion with employers. There can be little doubt, however, that the fundamental causes of the strike were economic in character, consequent upon the continued increased cost of living. At the same time political agitation (in sympathy with the National Movement in India) was largely instrumental in fanning the discontent thus caused into action. The strikers refused the opportunity presented to them by the appointment of a Commission, with the Chief Justice of Tonga as Chairman, of stating their case, and the sugar industry remained at a standstill for several months. In July, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the largest employer of labour in the Colony, undertook to pay weekly a deferred bonus, hitherto paid bi-monthly, and to supply for a limited period necessary foodstuffs and clothing at cost price. A general return to work gradually followed. In May the Indians employed in the sugar industry at Labasa on the Island of Vanualevu ceased work in sympathy with the strikers on the north side of Vitilevu, but the movement met with little success, and in less than two months work was resumed. A gratifying feature of the strike was the law-abiding behaviour of all parties concerned and the absence of racial feeling. Although precautionary measures were taken by the enrolment of special constables, their services were not required, no breach of the peace having been committed during the strike.

On the 21st March, Government House was struck by lightning and reduced to ashes within two hours. His Excellency the Governor was unfortunate in losing nearly all his private property in the fire. The building, fortunately, was partially insured. The sympathy of the Fijians took a practical form characteristic of the courtesy and chiefly traditions of the race. The leading chiefs asked permission to erect a large hall in native style for the convenience of the Governor. The stately " bure " which resulted will form an annexure to the new Government House and will stand for many years to come as a token of the loyalty and sympathy of the Fijian race.

A Commission was appointed by the Acting Governor in August to inquire into the cost of living as compared with the previous year. The report of the Commission, which was laid on the table of the Legislative Council, showed that the increases and decreases so nearly balanced each other that the difference was negligible.

The early part of the year was marked by a movement amongst the Indian community for repatriation to India. To meet this demand the Government chartered two vessels, the " Ganges " and the " Chenab," to carry repatriates. In all, 2,958 persons were repatriated during the year. The return of 500 repatriates in April, and later of 800 more, who, finding conditions unsuitable in India, returned to Fiji, and the circulation of rumours as to the treatment received by these persons in India and the difficulty of obtaining remunerative employment, led to a considerable withdrawal of applicants for repatriation.

On the 27th of June an official announcement was made simultaneously in Fiji and in India that a Committee from India had been appointed by the Government of India to visit Fiji in January, 1922, under the following terms of reference :—

(1) To inquire into the conditions of Indians now resident in Fiji and to ascertain causes of discontent.

(2) To advise whether or not, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, Fiji offers a suitable field for Indian colonization.

The visit to Fiji of a Deputation appointed by the Government of India to study conditions of Indians in Fiji, more particularly in regard to renewed immigration of Indians into Fiji, had been the subject of negotiations between the respective Governments since the early months of the previous year, and the decision of the 27th of June was welcomed in the Colony.

During the year a subsidized direct steamship service was established between Fiji and the United Kingdom, and a contract for twelve months, terminable on six months' notice, was entered into with the Australian Commonwealth line of steamers. The main feature of the contract was the fixing of freight rates from Fiji at a similar figure to the charge from Sydney to London. In the past European cargo had been largely transported via Sydney, involving transhipment and additional freight from Sydney to Fiji. Similarly, copra, which had in recent years largely been diverted to the United States of America, was shipped in considerable quantities direct to the United Kingdom. The inauguration of this service marks a forward step in the history of Fiji.

A series of aeroplane tests were successfully conducted in the Colony during the month of July. The tests included flights round Vitilevu and Vanualevu and conclusively demonstrated that the carriage of mails and passengers by air is practicable in this Colony. The condition of the Colony's finances will, however, preclude the possibility of inaugurating a flying service in the immediate future.

Another important step taken during 1921 was the trial survey of a transinsular route across the Island of Vitilevu, the largest island in the Group. The survey showed that no insuperable engineering difficulties existed to the building of a road from Suva to Lautoka with a maximum gradient of one in twenty throughout. The construction of this road, when the financial position allows the work to be undertaken, will open up for settlement much fertile country lying in the interior, and will, in addition, render scenery of exceptional beauty accessible to tourists. The length of the projected roads from Suva to Tavua is estimated at 110 miles, and the cost at some £350,000.

The proposal to erect a Memorial Hospital in Suva, and to establish Cottage Hospitals in outlying centres, in memory of those from Fiji who gave their lives in the Great War, received the enthusiastic support of the public, and the £20,000 which the public were invited to subscribe was readily forthcoming. The levelling of the site at Suva is being proceeded with. The hospital, which is estimated to cost £40,000, will be erected in ferro concrete and will provide accommodation for 102 patients.

On April 24th the Census was taken. The preliminary returns show that the total population on that date was 157,266 persons made up as follows:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Europeans	2,297	1,581	3,878
Half-castes	1,454	1,327	2,781
Fijians	44,022	40,453	84,475
Indians	37,015	23,619	60,634
Chinese	845	65	910
Others	2,831	1,757	4,588

The most gratifying features of the report are the figures showing that the decline of the Fijian race has been arrested, and that the disparity in the numbers of the sexes of the Indian community is rapidly disappearing.

The partial success under adverse circumstances attending the importation and hatching of a small quantity of rainbow trout ova during 1920 led to the experiment being repeated on a larger scale during 1921, and 50,000 ova were imported from New Zealand with the kind assistance of the New Zealand Government. The venture proved a great success, and some 40,000 small trout have been liberated into the Sigatoka River, whence it is hoped in due course to stock the other mountain streams in the Group. The natural-food supply in these rivers is reported to be ample. The present financial position of the Colony has prevented further importations of ova for the time being, but the success attending this year's undertaking has shown the possibility of successfully introducing trout into the mountain streams of the Colony at an altitude above 2,000 feet where the water temperature does not exceed 70° F.

The year 1921 has witnessed in Fiji, in common with other tropical countries throughout the world, the decline from high prices to prices at which a profit is not possible to producers of certain tropical products. Cost of production which, under war-time conditions had reached a high level, did not correspondingly decrease. Wages of labourers were not reduced owing to the high cost of living, and the cost of agricultural material, fertilizers, and articles necessary for the efficient maintenance of plantations and of industrial concerns remained at an inordinately high figure.

For the first time for many years the assets of the Colony were exceeded by the liabilities. This condition of affairs was due partly to the drop in the value of tropical products, and partly to the great expenditure to which the Government was committed in the repatriation of Indians under the conditions of their original agreements. The expenditure under this heading alone in 1921 amounted to £85,119.

Native Administration.

The system of administration dealing with the native Fijian inhabitants of the Colony remains practically unchanged. A slight change was, however, effected in the Headquarters Administration, a redistribution of the duties hitherto devolving upon the Secretary for Native Affairs rendering it possible to abolish that office, and to provide more direct control by the Colonial Secretary. Native chiefs with administrative functions have been, in many provinces, replaced by European Commissioners, who in some cases are assisted by a capable native Chief as a subordinate. No new additions were made during the year to the code of Native Laws which confirms such Native customs as have been found to be desirable and suitable to the social condition of the people. The Fijians show no sign of physical deterioration. They are to-day, as at the time of cession, one of the finest races in the Pacific. The Census taken on the 29th April, 1921, showed a decrease of 2,621 or 3·01 per cent, the smallest recorded decrease in any censal period. But for the abnormal death-rate in 1918, due to the epidemic of influenza, for the first time since 1874 the 1921 Census would have shown an increase in the Native Fijian population. Notwithstanding the large number of East Indian immigrants now in the Colony instances of miscegenation are extremely rare.

During the year 3,642 Fijians were employed in wage-earning occupations, as against 2,427 ten years ago. The increase is due, to some extent, to the higher rates of wages now prevailing, and there is also evidence of a desire to work in order to accumulate the means of satisfying those individual wants which have gradually arisen with the development of the race.

The Fijians have made good progress in education during the last ten years as will be seen from the following figures taken from the 1911 and 1921 Census:—

Proportion per cent. of each sex of 15 years and upwards returned as able to read and write.

1911 Census.		*1921 Census.*	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
55·87	51·57	76·96	72·49

The basis of the educational system is the village schools which are conducted by the various Christian Missions. It is now compulsory to have these schools registered, and efforts are being made to improve the methods of teaching and to raise the standard of education.

As no hurricane of any severity affected the Colony during the year, the native food and coconut plantations have yielded heavy crops, and in no part of the Group has there been a scarcity, or any hardship experienced by the natives as a consequence of the world-wide depression in economic conditions.

The Native Lands Commission, although still hampered by a shortage in staff, made good progress during the year. Registration of all documents, including plans, Registers of Native Lands and Native Landowners, has now been completed in respect of the provinces of Nadroga, Colo West, Nadi, Lautoka and Ba. These provinces cover an area of over 1,500 square miles of territory. Investigations have been conducted in the northern districts of Naitasiri, in the districts of Nadogo, Labasa, Wailevu and Mali in Vanualevu and in the province of Ra. Survey operations have been started in the latter province, which comprises 18 districts, with an aggregate area of close on 400 square miles. The work of surveying Tailevu (south) is still proceeding. It has been found that the work of the Commission has been greatly facilitated by sending out advance parties of specially trained native Fijian clerks to make preliminary investigation, classify native tribes, and prepare claims for presentation at the official sittings of the Commission. Some of these men have shown conspicuous ability in this arduous and difficult work. During the year the Commission published Council Paper No. 6, being a report of the work of the Commission in Tailevu (south).

Sport.

Sport on land is generally poor throughout the Colony. There is some pigeon shooting, but, owing to the density of the jungle, this sport is mainly confined to natives. Wild duck, which once existed in large numbers, have been greatly reduced by the mongoose imported to reduce the rats in the sugar cane. The waters of the Colony, however, provide excellent fishing, and there are six or seven varieties of fish, rising up to 100 lbs. and over in weight, which may be caught by trolling with rod and line, and afford good sport. It is hoped also that in a few years the inland rivers may afford fly fishing as the result of the importation of trout ova to which previous reference has been made.

Vital Statistics.

The death-rate during the year 1921 for Europeans was 29, being 0·51 per cent. of the population; Fijians, 2,343, being 2·62 per cent. of the population; Indians 473, being 0·78 per cent. of the population. The births registered in 1921 numbered 5,389. The birth-rate works out at 8·99 per cent. of the population. 830 marriages were registered, the rate being 1·38 per cent. of the population.

Public Health.

The climate of Fiji is exceptionally healthy. Malarial fever, the curse of so many tropical countries, is entirely absent, and the anopheles mosquito is not found in any island of the Group. Europeans live to advanced ages and children thrive. Many Europeans, with their families, have resided in Fiji for prolonged periods without apparent damage to their vitality or constitution.

The most prevalent diseases of a serious nature are dysentery and typhoid fever. Infection is generally fly-borne rather than waterborne. The drier climate of the north and west sides of Vitilevu was formerly badly infested with flies when both these diseases were prevalent, as was also ophthalmia in that locality. Within the last ten years flies have almost disappeared, and these diseases have now become rare. A similar improvement has occurred in Suva, on the wet side of the island, as a result of an efficient sewerage system; but in the rest of the most rainy zone cases of dysentery and enteric fevers are, unfortunately, not infrequent. Search has been made for a fly parasite. Large numbers of fly pupæ in manure are devoured by ants. A small wasp has recently been found by Dr. Carment, Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. H. Simmons, Government Entomologist, as a common parasite of fly pupæ. It is hoped that this parasite may reduce fly infestation, but whether it has been the chief cause of the disappearance of flies on the dry side is not yet determined. A renewed effort is being made by the Government and the Rockefeller Foundation to reduce the high rate of infection amongst the Fijian and Indian population with ankylostomiasis. Sanitary measures are insisted on, and carbon-tetrachloride, a new anthelmintic (non-toxic, efficient, and cheap) is being administered to the people. The results up to now are promising, but several years' work will be necessary to stamp out the disease, so common in all tropical colonies.

Education, through native medical practitioners and other means, is removing from the native mind the belief in the desirability of infection of children with yaws. The Salvarsan group of drugs is much sought after, and, if funds allow, it is now practicable to consider the eradication of a disease almost as deadly in its after-effects as syphilis is elsewhere.

The method of intravenous injection of Chaulmoogra oil for leprosy is being steadily improved by Dr. Harper, Medical Superintendent of the Makogai Leper Asylum. As far as the evidence yet goes permanent cure may result in favourable cases from its use.

Imports and Exports.

The amount collected for import duties during the financial year 1921 was £194,842 as against £215,621 in 1920, and the Customs duties on exports amounted to £87,972 for 1921 as against £77,225 for the year 1920. The decrease in the amount of duty on imports is accounted for by the experiment which was tried of admitting free of duty foodstuffs of everyday use with a view to reducing the high cost of living. The exemption of these articles from duty did not, however, benefit the consumer in the manner anticipated, and the duties have now been reimposed. In November the Legislative Council, by Ordinance No. 32 of 1921, adopted the principle of a Preferential Tax on goods the product or manufacture of the British Empire. The preferential tariff on British goods amounts to 12½ per cent. *ad valorem.*

II. FINANCE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £569,722, or £80,969 in excess of the revenue for 1920. Two new sources of revenue, the Income Tax and the Business Profits Tax, together realized £142,073, while the Building and Hut Tax, previously yielding £16,000 annually, was discontinued. Repayment by the Imperial Government of interest on War Loan amounting to £25,800 ceased in 1920, and interest on general investments was reduced from £5,727 in 1920 to £1,050 in 1921, on account of the investments being sold early in the year. The expenditure amounted to £752,038 or £182,316 more than the revenue received. The main causes for this large excess were repatriation of immigrants to India, £85,120; loss on realization of Government investments, £29,259; writing down the value of Public Works Department stores, £23,225. As compared with the previous year, the total revenue and expenditure were as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1920	488,753	611,944
1921	569,722	752,038

A loan of £36,000 to provide advances to returned sailors and soldiers for specific purposes was floated in October, but up to the 31st December only £5,300 had been subscribed. A loan of £150,000 was raised in 1920 for the purpose of carrying out certain public works, and the Colony received from the Imperial Government an advance of £200,000 against a loan to be raised to meet part of the cost of the Suva Harbour works and drainage works. Of this latter sum the Suva Municipal Council is liable for £39,788 3*s*. 2*d*. On the 31st December last the Crown Agents had also advanced £114,000 to meet current expenditure. The Government Currency Notes in circulation at the close of the year amounted to £419,827 as compared with £372,868 at the end of the year 1920. As against the Government note issue the Commissioners of Currency held on the 31st December, 1921, £85,327 in gold and stock to the nominal value of £395,315.

III. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra, and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit. Value.
	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £	£
1920	72,985 ..	2,092,990	14,666 ..	508,830	95,315
1921	72,624 ..	2,053,403	14,531 ..	282,769	73,600

The number of bunches of bananas exported, the values of which are shown in the foregoing statement, was as follows:—

Year.	*Bunches.*
1920	759,830
1921	581,485

Other principal domestic exports were as follows:—

	1920.		1921.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Maize	42,732 bush.	11,499	61½ bush.	22
Beche de mer ..	2,329 cwt.	17,545	554 cwt.	3,578
Trocas shell ..	360 tons	28,244	101 tons	2,748
Rubber	1,319 cwt.	16,939	591 cwt.	4,053
Molasses ..	12,699 tons	12,713	13,374 tons	13,375

The total imports and exports for each of the past two years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1920	1,673,121	2,896,448	4,569,569
1921	1,509,732	2,541,458	4,051,190

Seventy-eight per cent. of the total trade of the Colony during 1921 was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Only 8·6 per cent. of the total trade was with foreign countries, chiefly the United States of America. The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom increased from 5·78 per cent. in 1920 to 13·19 per cent. in 1921; that with British Possessions increased from 77·19 per cent. in 1920 to 78 per cent. in 1921, and that with foreign countries fell from 16·68 per cent. in 1920 to 8·60 per cent. in 1921. The falling-off of trade with foreign countries is accounted for by the fact that more than half of the copra exported from the Colony went to the United Kingdom.

Agriculture.

Sugar.—The quantity of sugar exported during 1921 was 378 tons less than exported during the previous year. There was, however, a considerable decrease in the value of the total export owing to the fall in price. The future prospects of this industry are uncertain, being dependent upon labour conditions, which still continue to be unsettled.

Bananas.—There was a reduction in the export of bananas during the year, the number of bunches exported being 178,545 less than in the previous year, and the decrease in value amounted to £21,712. The banana industry has been somewhat depressed throughout the year, owing to the action of the Commonwealth Government in imposing a prohibitive duty of 8*s.* 4*d.* per cental upon bananas, which has effectively closed the Australian market to the bananas of this Colony. There is, however, an important movement on foot with the object of placing Fiji bananas on the Canadian market. A trial shipment made under most unfavourable conditions, though unsuccessful, encourages the hope that, under suitable conditions, a satisfactory trade can be established in tropical fruits with Canada, and that the opening up of a remunerative market in this direction may more than compensate for the loss of the Australian market.

Coconut Industry.—Conditions appear to be fairly flourishing, but the low prices ruling for copra and the high cost of labour have militated against the extension of planted areas. The crop prospects in regard to coconuts for 1922 are good, and, given increased prices and the absence of hurricanes, the production of copra will be considerably increased.

Rice.—The policy of the Government in encouraging the local production of rice has met with success, and production has increased to such an extent that it has been necessary to import and erect new rice milling machinery in the mill which the Government has established at Suva. The production of rice locally has correspondingly reduced the amount imported, and it is hoped that, as times goes on, it will be possible to develop an export trade in this commodity with Australian and New Zealand markets.

Trocas Shell.—The market for this class of shell, of which considerable quantities are to be found on the reefs throughout the Group, was very low during the year, and consequently there has been very little exported. The principal market for the trocas shell is in Japan, where the shell is made into buttons which closely resemble mother-of-pearl.

Pineapples.—The prospects of the establishment of a pineapple industry in the near future are extremely promising, and the many inquiries received from Canada and the United States show that the attention of capitalists is being directed to the possibilities of the establishment in the Colony of this industry, which has proved so lucrative in the Hawaiian Islands, where climatic and soil conditions are similar to this Colony.

Maize.—There has been a marked falling-off in the export of maize as compared with 1920. It was due to the difficulty of obtaining markets in the neighbouring Dominions which only are accessible to Fiji maize when local crops have failed through drought or other causes. The Colony is capable of growing maize of good quality in large quantities should markets at any time be available. A small corn-meal mill has been established by private enterprise in the Sigatoko District, and it is hoped that this nutritious food may eventually become popular amongst the native and Indian population.

Rubber.—The price of rubber has been so low during 1920 that the value of the quantity exported was only a quarter of the amount obtained in 1920. The industry is now practically at a standstill, and no further tapping is likely to take place until the market improves. Large areas suitable for further rubber production are available, but unless prices advance in the near future, no further extension of the industry is likely for the time being.

Cotton.—Attention is being given to the cultivation of cotton, more especially by the Indian small-holder, to whom the cultivation of cane at present prices is becoming unattractive. In the past, sea-island cotton was grown to advantage in the Colony, and there is every prospect of the re-establishment of this industry in the near future.

Timber.—Many valuable timbers are found in Fiji. At present, however, the export of timber is limited, due mainly to the difficulties of internal transport. Several small mills provide sufficient timber for local use and for the manufacture of the cases in which bananas are exported. During the year a concession over the mangrove timbers surrounding Vitilevu was granted to a company which proposes to extract tannin from the bark.

Cattle.—Cattle thrive well in all parts of Fiji. There are no serious endemic diseases affecting cattle, nor are there any ticks. Every precaution is taken by inspection and treatment of animals, both at the port of embarkation and at the port of arrival in the Colony, to guard against the introduction of diseases and pests from outside sources. " Stores " can best be raised in the dry zones, whereas the luxuriant state of the wetter zones are more suited for fattening purposes.

Large areas of land suitable for raising cattle are available for leasing. In October, 1920, a lease of 100,000 acres was granted in the Ra District. This lease was greatly improved during the year by sub-division and the laying down of paddocks under paspalum grass to supplement the indigeneous grasses. This lease is at present running between 4,000 to 5,000 head of cattle. It is hoped that canning works will be established shortly in this locality.

IV. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

The currency and coin in circulation are English sterling. The two private banks established in the Colony—the Bank of New Zealand and the Bank of New South Wales—have, temporarily, a private note issue, and the value of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1921, amounted to £7,768. The issue is gradually being withdrawn.

During the year under review, the number of accounts with the Government Savings Bank increased from 1,913 to 2,316, while the amount of deposits increased from £44,959 in 1920 to £68,061 in 1921.

V. LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the deed of cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. 3, the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure now is leasehold up to 99 years, with reassessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause), the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor in Council may issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted to public auction, usually at an upset premium of £2 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. The lessee is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from *3d.* to *2s.* per acre, coconut lands from *1s.* to *5s.*, hill land for rubber from *6d.* to *2s.*, banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from *5s.* to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total lands alienated to settlers exceeds one-seventh of the area of the Colony. Three-sevenths of the land are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and, in any case, a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations, while another two-sevenths are mountainous, but suited for cattle.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1921 :—

Title.	On 31st December, 1921.	
	No. of lots.	Area in acres.
Freehold	1,566	526,896
Native leases	5,541	266,372*
Crown leases	150	8,936*
Total	7,257	802,204
Area held by the Crown open to settlement, not the subject of any title.		120,000
Unalienated land still held by the native owners, about.		3,601,416
Total area of Colony		4,523,620

* To arrive at the actual position on the 31st December, 1921, it is necessary to add to the native leases 1,602 leases for 130,794 acres (estimated), and to the Crown leases 92 leases for 4,059 acres (estimated) approved but awaiting survey, execution of leases or otherwise in process of alienation.

(*Note* : The lease of about 100,000 acres is approved to one applicant.)

VI. EDUCATION.

In 1921 the expenditure on Education was £26,151, as compared with £19,990 in 1920 and £14,185 in 1919.

The secondary schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 217 in December, 1921 (Boys' Grammar School, 107; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed Kindergarten, 110). There were 73 children from the country boarded in the Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

Twenty-four schools have been admitted to grants-in-aid under the Primary Schools Regulations, and 23 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter, 17 are for Fijians, and six for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government-Assisted Training Colleges, but the Davuilevu Institute of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of four students who passed the Teachers' Qualifying Examination. Government assistance has also been continued during 1921 towards the maintenance of six Indian students who were sent to India to study at the Allahabad Agricultural College. The Fijian student trained at Hawkesbury College has returned to Fiji, and two other Fijians trained at Queen Victoria School, Fiji, have been sent to Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand.

The school work was adversely affected at the beginning of the year both by the Australian shipping strike, which delayed the return of teachers to the Colony, and the epidemic of measles locally; and, again in June, many schools were closed on account of a recurrence of measles.

There were 15 passes out of the 26 candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1920, and in December, 1921, 43 candidates sat for the Cambridge Local Examinations, Preliminary and Junior.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918. Five hundred and sixty-six schools and 880 teachers have been registered up to December 31st, 1921.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four Joint Provincial Schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites and building materials and of staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools was opened in September, 1921, and the second will be in operation in 1922.

There are now altogether 55 Government and Assisted Schools, 21 being for Indians, 27 for Fijians, two receiving both Indians and Fijians, and five for Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 3,774 pupils, of whom 1,269 are Indians, 2,016 are Fijians, and 479 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. The staff consists of 53 European, 60 Fijian, and 24 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

VII. CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1921 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 170·74 inches, as against 108·45 inches in 1920, and 138·18 in 1919. This rainfall is 56·19 above the average, and rain fell on 232 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was on the 11th November, when 13·10 inches were recorded. The gauge overflowed on the above date.

The year was an abnormal one throughout as regards rainfall, and the total of 170·74 inches for Suva is the greatest experienced during the 37 years that records have been kept. As will be seen from the summary shown below, the rainfall in country districts in 16 instances was well above the average, in two instances very slightly above, in the remaining three it was below.

Station.	Total for 1921.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1921.
Baulailai	97·50	83·65
Buca Bay	102·59	99·52
Labasa C.S.R.	105·42	80·48
Lautoka C.S.R.	94·29	66·41
Levuka	149·33	91·38
Munia, Lau	78·54	70·03
Makogai	83·11	77·09
Nabouwalu, Bua	138·76	101·59
Nadarivatu	129·91	129·17
Nadi	95·74	61·92
Navua	185·16	142·82
Nausori	154·63	112·38
Penang, Ra	76·86	81·63
Rarawai, Ba	97·05	78·79
Rotuma	148·63	135·59
Suva	170·74	114·55
Tavua	69·78	67·68
Valeci, Savusavu	101·52	106·31
Vunidawa, Colo East ..	184·77	138·70
Wainunu, Bua	183·47	149·46
Waiyevo, Taveuni ..	96·96	101·89

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 69·2° F. minimum and 84·8° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 77° F. The highest temperature recorded was 90·6° F. on the 19th March, and the lowest was 58·2° F. on the 14th July. The hottest month was March, with an average temperature of 87·4° F. maximum, and 72·8° F. minimum, and the coolest month was July, with an average of 79·9° F. maximum, and 60·5° F. minimum.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1920.		1921.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	113	316,877	114	322,740
American	34	20,843	11	8,700
	147	337,720	125	331,440

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

	1920.		1921.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels ..	91	1,787	68	2,274
Native-owned vessels	77	673	48	426
Chinese-owned vessels ..	15	120	13	133
Indian-owned vessels	8	42	6	54
Japanese-owned vessels ..	9	79	6	73
	200	2,701	141	2,960

Roads.

The total length of roads in the Colony is estimated to be 198 miles. Of this length only about 74 miles have been metalled.

Bridle tracks linking up the native villages and isolated estates are interlaced across the principal islands.

Rivers.

There are only three rivers which are navigable to any distance except for native craft. The most important is the Rewa River, which forms the main channel of communication between Suva and the interior of Vitilevu. The river is kept free of obstacles by the Rewa River Board, composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Government, and is navigable for a distance of 50 miles for light draft launches.

Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Service.

Steamers of the following lines, the Canadian-Australian Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Commonwealth Line, convey mails between Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. Opportunity is taken also, whenever possible, of despatching mails by visiting vessels.

Inter-island communication is maintained by regular steamer and cutter services On the larger islands mails are carried by runners, and on the n[illegible]n side of Vitilevu, from Tavua to Sigatoka, by the tramline belonging to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

A mail subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australian Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight on arrival in Suva. A subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum was given to the Australian United Steamship Navigation Company, Limited, in respect of the inter-insular steam services during the year.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which eleven and a half miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunedawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line to Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control. As soon as funds will permit, a wireless telegraphy service will, in addition, be established with the Lau Group of Islands and the Island of Rotuma.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

Railways.

There are no Government railways in the Colony, but the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have a small-gauge railway extending from Tavua to Sigatoka, a distance of 120 miles approximately, on which passengers are carried on specified days free of cost.

IX. LEGISLATION.

During the year 37 Ordinances were passed, but, with the following exceptions, were not of general interest.

By Ordinance No. 2, the principle of a tax on Business Profits was adopted in Fiji, in common with most countries throughout the world. The Ordinance provided for the levy of a tax of 5 per cent. on profits up to 15 per cent. per annum upon the capital employed, and of 25 per cent. on profits exceeding that mark. The Income Tax Ordinance of 1920 was amended, and the amount of income exempted from taxation was reduced from £1,000 to £500 for married persons, and from £500 to £250 for unmarried persons. The income tax at present payable in the Colony is 1*s*. in the pound up to £5,000, 2*s*. in the pound from £5,000 to £10,000, increasing by 1*s*. in the pound for each succeeding £5,000 additional income up to £60,000.

F. E. FELL,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hongkong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1171.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1130.)

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No. 1171.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922.*

I. GENERAL.

Geographical, Etc.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole group itself is situated midway between the Tongan or Friendly Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin to volcanic upheaval and to the busy operations of the coral polyps. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanaulevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group. Although Fiji appears not to be the focus of volcanic action, masses of pumice stone, drifting at intervals on the shores of the Colony, indicate the proximity of submarine disturbances.

*** A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd. 7622-39.)**

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Tavenui to 4,040 feet. The slopes of these altitudes are, for the most part, densely wooded, but only in a few places can virgin forests be said to exist. Fijians for ages past have used the same system of agriculture as at present, felling new areas of forest for their crops when the fertility of the old has become exhausted, and it may be due in some measure to these methods that secondary rather than virgin forests generally appear to be re-established.

The direction of the prevalent trade winds varies from E.N.E. to E.S.E., and the aspect of the weather side of the main islands, or what is known as the wet zone, differs essentially from that of the lee side. As indicated in previous reports, the former is clothed with dense masses of luxuriant vegetation varied with occasional cleared areas which spread over hill and dale, and which have been produced by artificial means.

On the lee side, instead of these dense jungles, a grassy country, dotted here and there with screw-pines, weeping ironwood and other trees, presents itself. On the northern and western sides of Vitilevu and Vanualevu this character predominates. It is probable that, aided by grass fires, this open country may have eaten considerably into what was formerly forest land. In the smaller islands, such as several of those of Lomaiviti and Lau Groups, there is exhibited a beauty of scenery equally impressive with that of the main islands, the charm of volcanic irregularity being exhibited in a more marked degree. Here, too, are found the softer features of rich vales and stately palms mingling in unchecked luxuriance, and forming with the wild reef scenery, its beating surf, and the stretching ocean beyond, pictures of distinctive splendour.

Of brilliant flowers there are few, but the Yasiyasi (*Engonia Rivularis*) when in flower are exceedingly gorgeous, whilst a terrestrial orchid (*Phajus*) and two or three mountain Dendrobriums are also noteworthy. The majority of native flowers are, however, white, many being beautifully scented. In the Bua Province the country is park-like, and Eugenias, sweetly scented Jasmines, and " Buas " abound.

As is natural in such a forest-clad country as Fiji, native bird life principally finds its habitat in the forest, although there are a number of " swamp " species. Migratory birds such as Golden Plover and Curlew visit the coasts in large numbers at certain seasons of the year. Some of the birds of Fiji are exceedingly beautiful. The fruit pigeon, called the Orange Dove, and the

(11859) Wt. 14549/886 625 10/23 Harrow G.75/2.

Golden Dove, outrival many, whilst small parrakeets are amongst the most gorgeous of their class. A large red and green parrot and several other fine varieties of pigeon are common to some parts of the Colony.

Butterfly life is not extensive or brilliant in feature, the few species that exist being forms of the New Guinea type. Dragonflies abound in great numbers and in considerable variety, and are said to play an important part in keeping the number of mosquitoes within limits.

Formerly, there were several varieties of snakes, all harmless, to be found throughout the Group, but these are now confined to those islands where the mongoose has not been liberated, and on those islands also lizard life is abundant.

Shore or attached reefs, barrier reefs, knolls and patches so abound off the coasts of Fiji as to make its waters an ocean labyrinth of unusual intricacy, yet not unduly difficult of navigation. Living corals in their varied and graceful forms and different hues, seen through the still clear water of the inner lagoons, present a unique and a wonderful sight, but the great utility of the reefs is that they form vast breakwaters within the shelter of which the navigator is sure to find safe and calm accommodation.

History.

Fijian history as recounted by native tradition may be said to have begun with the advent of the white race.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the group " Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed " Viti." Neighbouring Tongans who are unable to pronounce the letter " V," as well as other nations not so handicapped, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the *Duff*, was nearly lost on the reef off Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the *Bounty*, Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. *Province* in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and beche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendency in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him, he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, and at Lakeba, in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakabou adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakabou, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakabou induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakabou and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th of December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakabou, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakabou, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

Up to the year 1904 there was no political franchise in Fiji. The Legislative Council was nominated by the Crown, and included official and unofficial members, with the Governor as President.

Early in 1903 the European residents of the Colony addressed a Petition to His Majesty the King, praying that the right be granted to them to elect unofficial members to the Council. The contents of the Petition were settled by a Committee composed of delegates from the whole Colony. The petitioners desired that the franchise should be conferred only upon male adults who were born or naturalised British subjects, not being Indians, Fijians, or aboriginal Polynesians, who were able to read and write rudimentary English, who had resided in the Colony for not less than two years, and who had property qualifications, either freehold or leasehold, of £20 per annum, or an income of £120 per annum derived from any profession, trade, calling or business.

The petitioners asked, among other things, that they be permitted to elect twelve members, or not less than nine, and they suggested that the Colony should be divided into seven or more electorates, according to the number of members decided upon; that the election be for a term of three years; and that the elected members should themselves elect from among their number two of them to sit on the Executive Council.

The Governor, in forwarding the Petition, recommended for favourable consideration the prayer of the petitioners, in so far as it embodied the elective principle, which he considered might "properly be conceded to a community which has pushed its fortunes with energy and ability."

Attention was drawn to the fact that the petitioners had excluded entirely from all representation His Majesty's native-born Fijian subjects, who were the owners of the soil and who then numbered 94,397, as against a white population of 2,447, not all of whom were residents. It was considered, therefore, that any proposals which did not provide for native representation would be incomplete.

The main difficulty presented in the proposals was the division of the Colony into electorates. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to arrive at a satisfactory division which would provide for representation in proportion to voting power.

It was finally decided that more effective representation would be afforded by providing for the election, by each class of the Colony's residents, of their own representatives. Thus the business and professional men, who resided mainly in Suva and Levuka, were each to form a division, as were also the planters, who were scattered throughout the Colony. Suva was given two members, Levuka one, and the planters three. It was originally the intention that the latter class should be further divided, and that, with a view to serving sugar interests, one of the planters' representatives should be elected by the directors of the sugar companies. The natives were to have two members, and the Indians and Polynesian element were to be represented by the Agent-General of Immigration.

The Letters Patent conveying to the Colony its new Constitution were dated the 21st of March, 1904. They provided for ten official members, six elected members and two native members.

The new Letters Patent had not been long in existence when it was found that, owing to misapprehension and to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's Directorate declining to agree to the proposal that they should themselves, with the directorates of other sugar concerns, elect one of the Planters' representatives, an amendment of the Letters Patent became necessary. The original Letters Patent contained the following article in respect of the election of Planters' representatives :—

> The Elected Members of the Council shall be elected as follows :
>
> > Three members by persons duly qualified as electors as hereinbefore provided who are engaged either on their own behalf or in the employ of other persons, in the cultivation of land or the management of farms within the Colony of not less than 100 acres in extent, or in the production and manufacture of sugar, provided that the annual salary or wages derived from such employment be not less than £120.

The amending Letters Patent of the 25th of July, 1907, deleted the words which are underlined and substituted the words—

> "resident in the Colony elsewhere than in Suva or Levuka."

The effect of this amendment was to make every qualified elector competent to become a member of the Legislative Council.

In October, 1907, a representative of the Planters introduced into the Council a motion to amend the Letters Patent so as to permit the formation of separate electorates in country districts. He pointed out that under the system of so-called class representation it was impossible, owing to the geographical formation of the Colony and the difficulties of transport, for Planters' representatives to keep in touch with their constituents. Moreover, the expense of constant travelling was considerable and might affect adversely the representation of the people. This motion was not adopted, but the Government undertook to give full consideration to the representations that had been made, and in 1908 a Committee was appointed to revise the Regulations relating to electors. In their report, which was made in May, 1909, the Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that :

> The country districts which had hitherto been treated as one constituency should be divided into three.

Full consideration of the report led to the opinion that the three country members, as they were called, representing one constituency consisting of persons living in a number of more or less isolated places in each of which either sugar-cane, coconuts, or some other economic crop was the predominant object of cultivation, did not represent fairly all the different agricultural interests.

Consequently, the Letters Patent of 1910, which amended the original Letters Patent of 1904, were brought into operation. They provided for the following divisions :—

Suva and Levuka :

Eastern (comprising the Provinces of Lomaiviti, Macuata, Bua, Cakaudrove and Lau);

Northern (comprising the Provinces of Ra, Colo North, Colo West, Ba and Nadroga);

Southern (comprising the Provinces of Rewa, Namosi, Serua, Naitasiri, Colo East, Tailevu and Kadavu).

Under this arrangement Suva continued to have two members, Levuka continued to have one member, and the remaining three seats were allotted to the three other divisons named.

In October, 1912, a motion was introduced into the Legislative Council by one of the country members with the object of increasing by two the number of the elected members. This, and several other questions, led to further revision of the constitution and, in the end, after much correspondence and debate, the Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, were granted. These revoked those of 1904, 1905, 1910 and 1911, which were till then in force. They provided for the following electorates :—

Suva	2 members.
Eastern	1 member (which includes Levuka)
Vanualevu and Taveuni ...	1 member.
Northern	1 member.
Southern	1 member.
Western	1 member.

The elected side of the Council was, therefore, increased by one and so also was the official side.

The constitution of the Legislative Council was again amended by Letters Patent, dated the 20th of July, 1916, which increased the number of nominated members from eleven to twelve, and empowered the appointment by nomination of a British subject not holding office under the Crown. The object of this amendment was to enable some measure of representation to be given to the Indian community.

The Council now consists of :—

12 nominated members (11 of whom are public officers),
2 native members, and
7 elected members.

The Governor is aided by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and one official and two unofficial members who are also members of the Legislative Council.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is vested in Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. These Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, traffic, building construction, etc., and they have control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are derived from Government grants, licences and rates. During the year under review the revenue collected by the Municipality of Suva amounted to £9,459. The total rate levied during the year in Suva was 10⅜*d*. in the £. The total expenditure incurred in Suva amounted to £11,145, or an excess over revenue of £1,686. The deficiency was caused mainly by a falling-off of receipts from business licences. In the Levuka Municipality there was collected revenue amounting to £3,955, and the expenditure incurred was £3,807.

Additional plant was installed at the Suva Electricity Works, the cost, in respect of which the Council had borrowed a sum of £25,000, amounted to £23,623. The new works were officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 26th of June. With the installation of this plant it was expected that there would be a substantial increase in consumption. That such has not proved so far to be the case may be attributable to the present period of financial stringency and to the fact that in several instances firms which otherwise would have been large consumers have not utilized the current estimated. The expenditure on these works of further sums since authorized will materially reduce the working costs of the undertaking.

Negotiations were entered into between the Government and the Council for the taking over by the latter of the Suva Sewerage Scheme originally installed in the Municipality by the Government, and these reached finality during the latter part of the year, when legislation necessary to effect the transfer was introduced into and passed by the Legislative Council.

The matter of an improved Fire Brigade Service was taken up by the Council during the year and, subsequent to a conference between representatives of the Government, the Council and the Insurance Companies, there was adopted a definite scheme, which provides for the control of the service by a Board comprising representatives of the bodies named above.

At Levuka a memorial, erected to perpetuate the memory of Levuka-born boys and citizens who enlisted for service in the Great War, was handed over to the Municipal Council and unveiled on the 11th of November by His Excellency the Governor, who proceeded to Levuka specially for the purpose. The design and erection of the monument is the work of a Levuka-born boy, and is a credit to this Municipality.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Native Affairs.

No changes have been effected in the system of native administration, and no amendments have been made to the Native Regulations. There is, however, evidence of the desire among some of the younger generation of Fijians for a more individualised mode of living. This generally finds expression in the men leaving their towns and working as labourers in the plantations. Impetus has been given to this movement by the substitution of a considerable number of Fijians for Indian labourers in the sugar industry. Many of the men utilize the wages thus earned for communal purposes, such as in building iron-roofed houses in their towns and so obtaining relief from the constant work necessitated by repairs necessary to thatched, native-built houses. A small number obtain exemption from communal duties and support themselves on their own plantations, whilst others earn their living as sailors, carpenters, boat builders and mill hands. Owing to their traditions of communal living, very few Fijians ever attempt to engage in retail trade, and they remain content to leave this trade in the hands of Europeans, Indians and Chinese. Although many of them are employed in operating marine engines, the driving of motor-cars is left entirely in the hands of Indians. On the other hand, the Fijians are taking very readily to the use of horses, and are evincing a keen interest in horse racing. Three new racecourses, owned and operated by Fijians, have been opened, and the natives are showing a healthy and sportsmanlike spirit in their conduct of these races. In less-favoured districts, football and cricket are pursued with considerable keenness.

Despite the increased tendency to become wage earners, agriculture remains the main occupation of the Fijians. The cultivation of bananas, which was formerly largely in European hands, is now almost entirely under their control. In the sugar districts the natives are, in increasing numbers, employing more modern methods of cultivation, and are becoming accustomed to the use of European farm implements in the production of sugar-cane. A considerable number of them breed their own horses and bullocks, which they use for ploughing and general agricultural work.

Although the past year has been one of trade depression, the general health of the native does not appear to have suffered. The birth-rate for the period is 33·58 per 1,000, and the death-rate 23·23 per 1,000. The excess of births over deaths gives a natural increase in population of 881, or 10·3 per 1,000. The marriages among Fijians totalled 684.

No serious epidemic of infectious diseases occurred. A few cases of typhoid were reported, but in no instance did this disease assume serious proportions. The number of dysentery cases was very small, and showed a marked improvement upon previous years. This disease, which was once a serious menace to Fiji, is now almost negligible. Considerable progress has also been made in combating tertiary yaws and kindred diseases. Over 4,500 injections of Salvarsan were administered, and the incidence of this disease is now much less frequent than in former years, especially amongst children. A serious effort was made to deal with Ankylostomiasis or Hookworm, under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation, over 40,000 cases of all nationalities being treated. This disease is very prevalent, and continuous effort will be necessary to eradicate it, as re-infection occurs rapidly. Over 23,000 cases of minor ailments were treated by the Native Medical Practitioners, who exercise constant supervision over the health of the natives in the country districts.

Considerable progress has been made in improving educational facilities to the natives. Two new Joint Provincial Schools are now in operation, one at Taveuni and one in Tailevu. Each school serves three provinces and accommodates 60 boarders. These schools are under the control of trained European masters, and give an excellent elementary education to the Fijians. When the Joint Provincial School scheme is in full operation, these schools will form training centres from which selected boys will go to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu and to New Zealand or Australia for higher education. Two boys are at present training at Wanganui College, New Zealand, and a system of grants has been established which will enable a limited number of Fijian boys to be sent to a selected college for special training.

Visits were paid by the Governor to the Provinces of Lomaiviti, Lautoka, Nadi, Nadroga, Colo West and Tailevu. In each province the Governor was welcomed with the loyalty and respect characteristic of the Fijian. At Bau the Governor presented to the Bauan chiefs several blocks of land on the island of Koro, in settlement of their long-standing claim for compensation for the loss of certain chiefly rights and privileges which they enjoyed prior to the Deed of Cession.

In February a large native-built house, erected in Government House grounds, was formally handed over to the Acting-Governor by a representative gathering of native chiefs. When the old Government House was burnt down the natives expressed a desire to record their sympathy by providing for the use of the Governor the best native building which it was possible to erect. This splendid building, occupying a magnificent site near to the old Government House foundation, now stands as a symbol of the loyalty and affection in which the Governor is held by the natives of Fiji.

The Native Lands Commission, instituted for the purpose of investigating the ownership of all native-owned lands within the Colony, made considerable progress in its work during the year 1922.

Its operations in the country districts, apart from the work of registration which is carried out at headquarters, included the completion of all native land enquiries in the Province of Ra. This extensive Province, containing eighteen separate districts, lies on the north-east coast of the Island of Vitilevu, and stretches inland to the Kauvadra Range, the legendary home of all Fijian tribes now living on Vitilevu.

The Commission also held sittings and completed all its investigations in the closely-settled districts of Labasa, Wailevu, Mali, Nadogo and Wairiki, on the Island of Vanualevu. Labasa is one of the headquarters of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited : in this, and adjacent districts, large areas of land have been leased by Europeans and East Indian immigrants from natives for the cultivation of sugar-cane. Large sums of money are distributed annually to natives for rent of their lands, and, as an inevitable consequence, disputes have arisen from time to time in respect to the ownership of land and the proper division of rent money. These were all dealt with by the Native Lands Commission; many of them, on investigation, proved to be but trivial, and a settlement was made of land boundaries which should obviate the recurrence of disputes.

The Commission also carried on operations in the Province of Naitasiri, on the Island of Vitilevu, and accomplished most of the preliminary work before the end of the year.

During the year the Commission translated, and sent out for distribution to the native owners, all copies of its records in the Provinces of Colo West, Nadroga, Nadi, Ba and Lautoka, in compliance with the provisions of Section 2 (x) (g) of Ordinance No. III of 1912. These records show the boundary of each block of land and the names and status of the native owners. In addition to this, photographic copies of the standard sheet maps, showing the boundaries of each native holding, have been supplied to the provinces mentioned. Under the terms of Section 5 of Ordinance No. VIII of 1919, each proprietary unit is required to pay the actual cost of the survey of its lands which, so far, has been low, ranging from 3*d*. to 4*d*. per acre. In addition, natives are being encouraged to apply for separate maps of their respective holdings.

During the year 1922, 507 native holdings in the Provinces of Ra and Tailevu South, containing an aggregate area of 137,010 acres, were surveyed. The total area surveyed in all Provinces since the Commission started is 767,747 acres, comprising 3,014 separate blocks. As the Government has considered that the surveying of the more settled parts of the Colony should be undertaken in the first instance, there has been postponed the survey of an area estimated roughly to contain 200,000 acres in the hinterlands of the Provinces of Colo West, Nadi and Ba, of which the ownership was investigated by the Native Lands Commission in the years 1913–14. These lands lie on the remoter parts of the Provinces named, where, at present, there is but little settlement.

The operations of the Native Lands Commission are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. III of 1912, and No. VIII of 1919, and rules made under the former Ordinance.

The Commission originally consisted of two European officers (one of whom acted as Chairman), and one Native officer, who, by birth, was one of the highest Fijian Chiefs in the Colony. On the transfer of the Chairman to another Colony, the Commission was reconstructed, and is now composed of one European officer (Chairman), and two Native officers, who are natives of chiefly rank. The clerical staff consists of native clerks who are specially trained to the work. There is also a staff of surveyors attached to the Commission under the technical control of the Commissioner of Lands.

Indian Affairs.

The members of a Deputation appointed by the Government of India to report upon conditions in Fiji arrived in the Colony between the 21st of January and 9th of February. It consisted of

Mr. B. V. Raju (Chairman), Mr. G. L. Corbett, C.I.E., Pundit G. S. Sharma and Lieutenant Hisamuddin Khan, D.S.M. The Deputation, during the course of their investigations, visited several of the Indian centres and left the Colony finally at the beginning of April, 1922.

The market value of sugar fell rapidly at the beginning of the year. On the 18th of February, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company found it necessary to give one week's notice to its Indian employees of a reduction of wages from 2*s*. and 6*d*. bonus per task of six hours to 1*s*. 6*d*. per task, undertaking at the same time to supply to them essential commodities at cost price. It was anticipated that this reduction of wages might lead to a general cessation of work. Such, however, was not the case, although the complement of labourers, both in the mills and in the field, was by no means full. The price offered by manufacturers for sugar-cane was also reduced from 20*s*. a ton in 1921 to 10*s*. a ton, which was the minimum payable in respect of low-grade cane producing 13 per cent. of cane sugar. For higher grades payment was based on a fixed scale.

To this reduction was attributable the fact that a considerable number of Indians in the north and west of Vitilevu evinced a desire to discontinue the cultivation of sugar-cane and to embark upon a new industry. Many applications were received by the Department of Agriculture for supplies of cotton-seed with a view to establishing the cotton industry in Fiji, and during the year a considerable quantity of seed was introduced and distributed to applicants.

A Commission, under the Chairmanship of His Honour the Chief Justice, was appointed early in the year to report upon the cost of living in so far as it affected Europeans and Indians. In the case of Indians, the report issued by the Commission found that the cost of living has decreased by 9 per cent. since 4th of March, 1920, when the previous Commission on the subject made its report. The report, however, applied mainly to Indians who were dependent upon stores for the provision of essentials, and only in a lesser degree to those Indians who, in addition, derive produce from their own lands or who obtain their stores through the medium of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

Early in June the s.s. *Sutlej* left Suva for Calcutta with a full complement of 825 statute adult repatriates. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the full complement. Out of 1,000 applicants to whom passages were at first issued only 81 finally embarked, the remaining number being made up from late applicants and of persons not entitled to repatriation who were allowed to embark on payment of passage money.

The *Sutlej* brought with her from India 365 Indian passengers, of whom 150 were persons who had been repatriated from Fiji and who had paid their own passages back to the

Colony. The balance consisted of Punjabi farmers, Bombay tailors, jewellers and petty traders. It was reported to the Government towards the middle of the year that a large number of repatriated Indians were anxious to return to Fiji but were unable to pay their own passages.

In view of the difficulty experienced in filling the s.s. *Sutlej* from existing lists of applicants for repatriation, steps were taken to obtain completely new lists, it being explained to Indians generally that they should state whether they desired to return by the first or a later opportunity. The number of applications for inclusion in these lists went to show that the movement for repatriation which, in 1920, owing to unsettled industrial conditions, the high cost of living, and political agitation, reached such large proportions, had subsided, and that future repatriation is likely to proceed on normal lines.

On the 30th of September the lists containing the names of persons desiring to return by the first opportunity were closed; they showed that 1,146½ statute adults had registered their names. In some districts, however, it was reported that as many as 20 per cent. of the persons whose names had been registered were unwilling to accept passages. In view of this aspect of the matter, there was chartered the s.s. *Chenab*, the full complement of which is 829½ statute adults. The vessel left Suva with that complement on the 27th of December, after a great many substitutions had been made to fill the vacancies caused by persons who failed at the last moment to join the ship.

During the year, 1,361 adults and 585 children were given free passages to India, and these took away with them £57,760 in remittances and jewellery valued at £8,051. The number of Indians who declared themselves to be without money or valuables was 219.

On the 29th of July the Right Hon. V. S. Sastri, P.C., passed through Suva on his way to Vancouver. He was accorded a civic reception in the Town Hall at Suva, at which there attended a large audience, consisting of both Europeans and Indians, to hear his eloquent and interesting address. In order that Mr. Sastri might meet Indians representative of other parts of the Colony, the Government had invited delegates selected from the thickly populated districts of the north and west of Vitilevu, together with representatives from Suva and neighbouring districts. They were thus afforded an opportunity of conversing with him on matters concerning Indian interests.

General Observations.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir C. H. Rodwell, K.C.M.G., returned to the Colony on the 25th of March, after a period of leave spent in England. The Government having decided not to proceed with the building of a new Government House, to replace the one destroyed by fire in 1921, until the financial condition of the Colony had improved, His Excellency was obliged to occupy the quarters previously allotted to the Colonial Secretary. A new wing was added to these quarters and various other improvements effected; but, even with these improvements, they are inadequate as a Governor's residence, and a new Government House, which it is proposed should be erected on the old site, must be considered as among the more urgent of the public works to be undertaken when conditions improve.

After nineteen years of useful service in the Colony the steam yacht *Ranadi* was transferred to the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, a provisional arrangement having been agreed upon with the Western Pacific High Commission whereby H.M.C.S. *Pioneer* was placed entirely at the disposal of the Fiji Government. The *Pioneer* now undertakes the lighthouse work previously performed by the *Ranadi*, and, in addition, carries on an inter-insular passenger and mail service.

The trade of the Colony showed little improvement during the year, but towards its close there was generally a more optimistic feeling with regard to the Colony's prospects. The markets for sugar and copra, the two main industries, had begun to harden after a period of depression, and the natural resources of the Colony, which are without doubt of great potential value, together with the fact that conditions in other countries appeared generally to be improving, certainly afforded grounds for optimism. The banana industry, once so flourishing, has never recovered from the set-back it received as the result of the imposition of an import duty on bananas into Australia, so heavy as effectively to close to Fiji its principal market. Prospects of development of new industries, however, appeared to be good, and progress was made in dairying, while seed was imported by Government, and readily taken up, with a view to re-establishing the cotton industry. Attention was drawn to the Colony as being suitable for the cultivation of pineapples for canning purposes.

The effect of the preferential tariff on British produce and manufactures, imposed under Ordinance No. 32 of 1921, was marked, and it is gratifying to know that, in however small a way, the Colony is assisting in the promotion of trade within the Empire.

The Tailevu Dairy Scheme for returned sailors and soldiers seemed to be justifying the hopes for its success which were anticipated at the time of its inception in 1919, since when much pioneering work has been done and experience gained. The first samples of butter from the factory were placed on the market, and it is expected that the factory will shortly turn out sufficient butter to meet the total requirements of the local market. The quality of butter manufactured at Tailevu is good, and the percentage of butter fat obtained from cream compares favourably with other countries. The settlement at Tailevu has demonstrated that butter can be successfully manufactured in the Colony on commercial lines, and it seems probable that the industry has come to stay.

A Committee was appointed by the Governor during the year to consider reduction of public expenditure. As a result mainly of the Committee's activities, the estimated expenditure for the year 1923 was less by £129,423 than the estimated expenditure for the year 1922. This reduction has necessarily entailed retrenchment of officers and the curtailment of public services.

The Colony was visited during the year by H.M.'s Ships *Chatham*, *Veronica* and *Laburnum*. Through the instrumentality of the Commodore commanding the New Zealand Station, a system of weather reports has been inaugurated, whereby daily barometrical readings and other meteorological information throughout the Western Pacific are obtained during the hurricane season, with a view to enabling warnings of approaching storms to be broadcasted. These warnings have been of great assistance, not only to shipping, but also to the various groups, including Fiji, which lie within the hurricane zone.

Good progress has been made with the construction of the new War Memorial Hospital, which it is anticipated will be ready for occupation towards the end of 1923.

The Boy Scout Movement, with His Excellency the Governor as Chief Scout, has been successfully started in Suva, where it has been taken up with much enthusiasm. It is the aim of the Executive Committee gradually to extend the movement to other centres, and eventually to raise troops of both Fijian and Indian boys.

Vital Statistics.

The deaths during the year 1922 and the percentage of the respective class of population were as follows :—

> Europeans, 38, being 0·97 per cent. ; Fijians, 1,982, being 2·31 per cent. ; Indians, 415, being 0·65 per cent. ; others (excluding Rotumans), 37, being 0·58 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

> Europeans, 134, being 3·41 per cent. ; Fijians, 2,863, being 3·34 per cent. ; Indians, 1,906, being 2·98 per cent. ; others (excluding Rotumans), 97, being 1·53 per cent.

Eight hundred and fifty-eight marriages were registered, being at the rate of 0·53 per cent. of the population.

Public Health.

Fiji is exceptionally healthy for a tropical country. It is protected against most of the infectious fevers by its distance from a continent. The absence of the Anopheles mosquito prevents the occurrence of malaria. Plague, yellow fever, smallpox or cholera have never gained admittance. Neither scarlet-fever nor diphtheria appears able to flourish. First attacks of appendicitis hardly ever occur in Fiji. Dysentery is a steadily decreasing cause of ill-health. The climate is, however, generally unsatisfactory for those suffering from tuberculosis or asthma. The moist heat has an enervating effect on the nervous system.

The campaign against Hookworm or Ankylostomiasis was prosecuted vigorously during 1922. Nearly a third of the population received treatment, and sanitary measures were pushed forward. The Fijians and East Indians were found to be affected in almost equal proportions, but the species of worm generally found in Fijians (*Necator Americanus*) is different from that in Indians (*Ankylostoma duodenale*). It is interesting that, although Indian immigration began over forty years ago, the amount of mixed infection should still be so small. The infection is comparatively slight in parts where the rainfall is low, but very heavy where it is high. Correspondingly, the physique and general well-being of the Indian population are much higher on the dry than on the wet side of the main islands.

Intravenous injection of chaulmoogra oil continues to give good results in leprosy and several more cases have qualified for discharge from the Asylum.

Education, through Native Medical Practitioners and other means, is removing from the native mind the belief in the desirability of infection of children with Yaws. The Salvarsan group of drugs is much sought after, and, if funds allow, it is now practicable to consider the eradication of a disease almost as deadly in its after effects as syphilis is elsewhere.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports and exports of the past two years, excluding transhipment goods, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1921	1,509,732	2,541,458	4,051,190
1922	946,063	1,863,172	2,809,235

There is a preferential tariff of 15 per cent. in favour of the products and manufactures of the British Empire. The balance of trade in favour of the Colony still remains satisfactory.

Of the total trade of the Colony during 1922, 74·15 per cent. was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and 12·98 per cent. with the United Kingdom. The balance of the total trade, *i.e.*, 12·87 per cent. was chiefly with Germany and the United States of America. The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 13·20 per cent. in 1921 to 12·98 per cent. in 1922. That with British Possessions fell from 78·61 per cent. in 1921 to 74·15 per cent. in 1922, and that with foreign countries increased from 7·97 per cent. in 1921 to 12·87 per cent. in 1922. The increase of trade with foreign countries is accounted for by the fact that two-thirds of the copra exported from the Colony went direct to Europe.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Bananas.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.
		£		£		£
1921 ...	72,624	2,053,403	14,531	282,769	581,485	73,600
1922 ...	71,731	1,342,874	21,987	346,096	358,122	45,717

Other principal domestic exports were as follows :—

Article.		1921.		1922.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Coconuts	No.	1,131,824	6,333	879,250	4,626
Beche-de-mer ...	Cwt.	554	3,578	637	2,986
Trocas Shell ...	Tons	101	2,748	552	16,191
Rubber	Cwt.	591	4,053	82	571
Molasses	Tons	13,374	13,375	10,056	10,136

II. FINANCE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £450,155, or £119,567 less than the revenue for 1921. The principal decreases were :—

	1921.	1922.
	£	£
Import Dues...	203,030	46,265
Export Dues	79,105	44,905
Income Tax and Business Profit Tax	142,073	30,775

This abnormal falling-off in revenue was due mainly to general trade depression. No additional taxation was imposed during 1922, and the total taxation remains comparatively light.

The expenditure for the year was £530,361, or £221,677 less than the expenditure for 1921.

A comparison between the two years 1921 and 1922 is as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.
	£	£	£
1921	569,722	752,038	182,316
1922	450,155	530,361	80,216

Notwithstanding the falling-off in revenue of £119,567 during 1922, the deficit was reduced by £102,100 owing to the energetic policy of retrenchment pursued by the Government. Success in this direction also enabled the Budget for 1923 to be balanced.

During the year the stocks of materials and stores on hand were written down to present day values.

Two new industries (dairying, and rice growing and milling), which had been established and fostered by the Government were brought to a point at which success is assured in the local market, and, there is reason to believe, in the export market also.

The Loan Debt of the Colony may be stated as follows :—

	£	
Public Works Loan	**150,000**	**Short term loans, advances and overdrafts for public works, etc., pending the raising of a long term loan.**
Returned Soldiers and Sailors Advances Loan	**10,000**	
Advances by the Crown Agents	**345,000**	
Local Overdrafts	**74,000**	
	£579,000	

The currency in circulation consists of Government Notes and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	**326,945**
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (Sovereigns)	**80,827**
Securities (Market price at 31st Dec., 1922)	**277,538**
Depreciation Fund Investments	**8,290**
	£366,655
Surplus on Values at December 31st, 1922	**£39,710**

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1922 produced a net surplus of £14,371, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		**18,073**
Expenses	**1,172**	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund ...	**2,530**	
		3,702
Surplus		**£14,371**

Although the Colony has felt the full effect of the existing world-wide depression, its financial position is comparatively strong, and, as shown in the preceding section, exports continued to exceed imports last year by 89 per cent.; a large margin.

III. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £5,976,880, while that of the latter is £3,904,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £427,906, and by the Bank of New Zealand £249,083.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 2,316 to 2,353, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £68,061 to £76,295.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st of December, 1922, was £70,527, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (Market price on 31st December, 1922)	69,455	
Cash awaiting investment	3,027	
		72,482
Surplus ...		£1,955

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1922 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		3,257
Interest credited to depositors	2,062	
Expenses	190	
		2,252
Surplus ...		£1,005

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

IV. AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.—The quantity of sugar exported during 1922 was 893 tons less than exported the previous year. Owing to a fall in price there was, however, a considerable decrease in the value of the total export. Labour conditions, upon which this industry depends, continue to be unsettled, and the future prospects of the sugar industry are therefore uncertain, but an improvement may be expected in the future.

Bananas.—There was a reduction in the export of bananas during the year, the number of bunches exported being 223,363 less than in the previous year, the decrease in value amounting to £27,883. This decrease in export is due principally to the cessation of trade with Australia owing to the imposition of a prohibitive duty by the Commonwealth Government. During the year a trial shipment of 3,501 bunches was made to Canada, but, owing to the unsuitability of the steamer employed, the shipment was not a complete success. This trial shipment showed, however, that, with suitable shipping and the right class of fruit, the prospects of a satisfactory trade with Canada are reasonably certain.

Coconut Industry.—The quantity of copra exported during the year was 7,457 tons in excess of the quantity exported during the previous year, with an increase in value of £63,328. The low price ruling for copra continued throughout the year. The future prospects of this industry depend on labour conditions, and it is unlikely that further areas will be cultivated with coconuts until labour conditions are more settled.

Rice.—The production of paddy has increased to such an extent that the Colony is now self-supporting in rice. It is anticipated that the 1923 harvest will be greater than that of previous years, and endeavours are being made to find outside markets for the surplus production. New machinery was installed in the Government Rice Mill during the year, which is now capable of milling the requirements of the Colony. In addition, a small mill has been erected by a private firm in Suva. The Colony is capable of producing large quantities of rice, but a reduction in the cost of production is necessary before a large export trade can be expected.

Trocas Shell.—The quantity of this shell exported increased from 100 tons in 1921 to 552 tons in 1922, the respective values being £2,748 and £16,191. The value of this class of shell, of which considerable quantities are to be found on the reefs throughout the Colony, increased slightly during the year. The principal market for trocas shell is in Japan, where the shell is made into buttons which closely resemble mother-of-pearl.

Pineapples.—The prospects of the establishment of a pineapple industry in the near future are extremely promising. The collection of suitable plants has already been commenced and a nursery established. It is anticipated that the cultivation and canning of this fruit on a large scale will be undertaken in the near future.

Rubber.—Owing to the continued low price of rubber the export of this raw material has almost ceased, and it is unlikely that tapping will be again undertaken until the market improves.

Cotton.—A quantity of sea-island cotton seed was imported and disposed of to planters during the year, and it is estimated that there are some 700 acres under this crop. Arrangements have been made for the ginning and marketing of the crop, and, if the prices realised for the lint are satisfactory, a larger area should be cultivated in future. Sea-island cotton has been grown to advantage in the Colony in the past, and the yield, it is anticipated, will be satisfactory.

Timber.—Many valuable timbers are found in Fiji. At present, however, the export of timber is limited, due mainly to the difficulties of internal transport. Several small mills provide sufficient timber for local use and for the manufacture of the cases in which bananas are exported. During the year 1921 a concession over the mangrove timbers surrounding Vitilevu was granted to a company which proposes to extract tannin from the bark. The machinery for this undertaking has arrived and is in course of erection.

Cattle.—Cattle thrive well in all parts of Fiji. There are no serious endemic diseases affecting cattle, nor are there any ticks. Every precaution is taken by inspection and treatment of animals, both at port of embarkation and at the port of arrival in the Colony, to guard against the introduction of diseases and pests from outside sources. "Stores" can best be raised in the dry zones, whereas the luxuriant state of the wetter zones is more suited for fattening purposes.

Large areas of land suitable for raising cattle are available for leasing. In October, 1920, a lease of 100,000 acres was granted in the Ra district. This lease has been greatly improved during the year by subdivision and the laying down of paddocks under paspalum grass to supplement the indigenous grasses. This lease is at present running between 4,000 to 5,000 head of cattle, and it is hoped that canning works will be established shortly in this locality.

Dairying.—The Dairy Scheme for returned sailors and soldiers has proved that excellent butter can be produced in Fiji under conditions which offer very good prospects to dairy farmers. Considerable quantities of butter are now placed upon the local market, which prefers the local to the imported article. Samples of Fiji butter have been examined by New Zealand Government dairying experts who have pronounced it to be of first grade quality, fit to compete in any market.

A private co-operative Dairying Association is now in course of formation and a second is contemplated which will make three factories in all. It is expected that in 1924 local supplies will meet all local demands, and that in 1925 it may be possible to commence an export trade.

V. LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. III, the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every twenty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause), the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council may issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown Lands are submitted to public auction, usually at an upset premium of £2 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. The lessee is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 3*d*. to 2*s*. per acre, coconut lands from 1*s*. to 5*s*.; hill land for rubber from 6*d*. to 2*s*.; banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total land alienated to settlers is about one-fifth of the area of the Colony. Three-sevenths of the remainder are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and, in any case, a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1922:—

Agriculture and Land Tenure.

Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of Alienation.		Total Area.	Total Area of Colony
			No. of Lots and Area Estimated.			
		Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Freehold ..	1,570	528,104	2	5	528,109	4,523,320
Leases of Crown Land ..	164	9,387	81	1,564	10,951	—
Leases of Native Land ..	5,742	271,329	1,693	131,412*	402,741*	—
					941,801	4,523,620

* Includes an estimated area of 100,000 acres approved for lease to one applicant

VI. EDUCATION.

In 1922 the expenditure on Education was £28,956, as compared with £26,151 in 1921, £19,990 in 1920, and £14,185 in 1919.

The two schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 226 in December, 1922: (Boys' Grammar School, 101; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed Kindergarten, 125). There were 66 children from the country boarded in the Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

On the 31st of December, 1922, there were 23 schools receiving grants-in-aid under the Primary Schools Regulations, and 22 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter, 17 are for Fijians and 5 for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government-Assisted Training Colleges, but the Davuilevu Institute of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of three students who passed the Teachers' Qualifying Examination. Government assistance has also been continued during 1922 towards the maintenance of six Indian students who were sent to India to study at the Allahabad Agricultural College. The Fijian student trained at Hawkesbury College has returned to Fiji, and two other Fijians trained at Queen Victoria School, Fiji, have been sent to Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand.

There were 20 passes out of the 45 candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1921, and in December, 1922, 36 candidates sat for the Cambridge Local Examinations, Preliminary, Junior, and Senior, of whom 17 passed.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918. Five hundred and seventy-four schools and 962 teachers have been registered up to the 31st of December, 1922.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four Joint Provincial Schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites and building materials and of staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools was opened in September, 1921, and the second was built in 1922 and will be opened in January, 1923.

There are now altogether 53 Government and Assisted Schools, 18 being for Indians, 27 for Fijians, one receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 7 for Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 4,039 pupils, of whom 1,490 are Indians, 2,064 are Fijians, and 485 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. The staff consists of 53 European, 62 Fijian, and 30 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

During the latter half of the year a Special Schools Committee was appointed to consider the general management of the Grammar Schools, Suva, and the Levuka Public School. In an *interim* report which the Committee submitted it was agreed that co-operation with a neighbouring State, such as New Zealand, would be advantageous, not only so that teachers could be obtained, but that the public school syllabus could be adopted, and an annual visit made by a New Zealand Inspector of Schools. It was arranged that the Superintendent of Schools should visit New Zealand early in 1923, in order to confer with the Director of Education, Wellington, on the proposed scheme of co-operation.

VII. CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1922 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 158·10 inches, as against 170·74 inches in 1921, and 108·45 inches in 1920. This rainfall is 42·40 inches above the average, and rain fell on 201 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was on the 18th of March, when 8·30 inches were recorded.

Station.	Total for 1922.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1922.
Baulailai	99·70	84·59
Labasa C.S.R.	83·42	80·58
Lautoka C.S.R.	109·39	68·36
Levuka	98·92	91·65
Munia, Lau	65·70	69·87
Makogai	86·55	77·95
Nabouwalu, Bua	132·78	107·83
Nadarivatu	140·81	129·65
Nadi	97·29	63·61
Navua	133·06	137·52
Nausori	151·54	113·78
Penang, Ra	97·37	82·04
Rarawai, Ba	114·27	80·06
Rotuma	143·81	136·04
Suva	158·10	115·70
Tavua	110·0	70·39
Valeci, Savusavu	105·10	106·23
Vunidawa, Colo East ..	166·79	141·51
Wainunu, Bua	141·10	149·26
Waiyevo, Taveuni ..	88·09	101·02

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 68·7° F. minimum, 83·7° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·2° F. The highest temperature recorded was 91·0° F. on the 26th and 31st of January and 22nd of December, and the lowest was 55·0° F. on 2nd of November. The hottest month was February, with an average temperature of 87·7° F. maximum, and 72·4° F. minimum, and the coolest month was October, with an average of 81·4° F. maximum, and 63·7° F. minimum.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1921.		1922.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	114	322,740	123	329,032
American	11	8,700	1	677
Swedish	—	—	3	5,370
Norwegian	—	—	1	3,129
Total ..	125	331,440	128	338,208

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

Nationality.	1921.		1922.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels ..	68	2,274	67	1,657
Native-owned vessels	48	426	50	528
Chinese-owned vessels ..	13	133	9	93
Indian-owned vessels	6	54	8	85
Japanese-owned vessels ..	6	73	3	16
Total ..	141	2,960	137	2,379

For the greater part of the year a subsidized direct service, at a cost to the Colony of £12,000, was maintained. It was possible, however, to arrange towards the close of the year for a direct service without subsidy. Under the new arrangement, vessels of the New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, make a quarterly call at Suva and Levuka *en route* to New Zealand. The service is proving entirely satisfactory and has the general support of local importers who, under the existing British Preferential Tariff, are importing goods from England in increasing quantities.

Roads.

The total length of metalled roads in the Colony is less than 100 miles, but with gravelled roads and certain unmetalled roads in the dry zone the total length of roads capable of being used by motor traffic in fine weather is about 230 miles. Of this length about 110 miles is unsuitable for motor traffic during the wet season.

Bridle tracks linking up native villages and isolated estates are interlaced across the principal islands.

Roads that have been proclaimed as public roads as prescribed by Ordinance 21 of 1914 are maintained at the expense of the general revenue. Bridle tracks connecting native villages are weeded and kept generally in fair order communally in accordance with arrangements included annually in programmes of work drawn up in pursuance of resolutions adopted in native provincial councils.

A sum of £28,900 was spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges during the year, and £5,042 on improvement works. The total expenditure from revenue was £33,942 as compared with £55,521 in the preceding year.

Expenditure from loan funds on the central or main trunk road under construction across Vitilevu amounted to £10,565. During the year good progress was made on the construction of the first section of this road from Suva towards the Waimanu River, considering the limited number of suitable labourers available. About three miles of road was completed with an additional mile of earthwork formation. As the construction of this road proceeds, adjoining land acquires value, and areas in its vicinity are being taken rapidly up for settlement.

Rivers.

There are only three rivers which are navigable for any distance except by small or native craft. The most important is the Rewa River which forms the main channel of communication between Suva and the interior of Vitilevu. This river is kept free of obstacles by the Rewa River Board, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Government, and is navigable for a distance of 50 miles for light draught launches.

For some years past the eradication of water hyacinth in the main rivers, and more particularly the Rewa River, has involved some expense to Government. Its rapid spread, tending to choke streams used more particularly by natives, necessitated its being declared a noxious weed, and, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1919 the Governor-in-Council prescribed the steps to be taken by occupiers of land throughout the Colony for the eradication of the pest.

Railways.

There are no Government railways in the Colony, but the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have a narrow gauge railway extending from Tavua to Sigatoka, a distance of approximately 120 miles, over which, free of charge, passengers are carried on specified days.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service.

Steamers of the following lines, namely, the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer *Pioneer*, several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which eleven and a half miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunedawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement. hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line to Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control. As soon as funds will permit, a wireless telegraphy service will, in addition, be established with the Lau Group of Islands and the Island of Rotuma.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

IX. LEGISLATION.

During the year, thirty-four Ordinances were passed, but, with the following exceptions, were not of general interest.

Ordinance No. 1 permits the Commissioners of Currency to make payment for notes in current coin, other than gold, and enables them to defer payment of notes by order of the Governor. A tender by the Commissioners of silver to any amount is made legal tender. Ordinance No. 8 makes provision for reciprocity in the enforcement of maintenance orders between this Colony and England and Ireland. Ordinance No. 9 indemnifies officials from legal action in connection with any act or thing done by them during the War in execution of their duty, if done in good faith. No 22 provides for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments and awards in the United Kingdom and Fiji. No. 34 imposes a tax of 1¼ per centum on the value of imports in addition to the Customs dues collected on such imports.

T. E. FELL,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	,,
1151	Uganda	,,
1152	Somaliland	,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April–December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 and 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
97	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.*

GENERAL.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole group itself is situated midway between the Tongan or Friendly Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin to volcanic upheaval and to the busy operations of the coral polyps. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group. Although Fiji appears not to be the focus of volcanic action, masses of pumice stone, drifting at intervals on the shores of the Colony, indicate the proximity of submarine disturbances.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd. 7622-39.)

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet. The slopes of these altitudes are, for the most part, densely wooded, but only in a few places can virgin forests be said to exist. Fijians for ages past have used the same system of agriculture as at present, felling new areas of forest for their crops when the fertility of the old has become exhausted, and it may be due in some measure to these methods that secondary rather than virgin forests generally appear to be re-established.

The direction of the prevalent trade winds varies from E.N.E. to E.S.E., and the aspect of the weather side of the main islands, or what is known as the wet zone, differs essentially from that of the lee side. As indicated in previous reports, the former is clothed with dense masses of luxuriant vegetation varied with occasional cleared areas which spread over hill and dale, and which have been produced by artificial means.

On the lee side, instead of these dense jungles, a grassy country, dotted here and there with screw-pines, weeping ironwood and other trees, presents itself. On the northern and western sides of Vitilevu and Vanualevu this character predominates. It is probable that, aided by grass fires, this open country may have eaten considerably into what was formerly forest land. In the smaller islands, such as several of those of Lomaiviti and Lau Groups, there is exhibited a beauty of scenery equally impressive with that of the main islands, the charm of volcanic irregularity being exhibited in a more marked degree. Here, too, are found the softer features of rich vales and stately palms mingling in unchecked luxuriance, and forming with the wild reef scenery, its beating surf, and the stretching ocean beyond, pictures of distinctive splendour.

Of brilliant flowers there are few, but the Yasiyasi (*Engonia Rivularis*) when in flower are exceedingly gorgeous, whilst a terrestrial orchid (*Phajus*) and two or three mountain Dendrobriums are also noteworthy. The majority of native flowers are, however, white, many being beautifully scented. In the Bua Province the country is park-like, and Eugenias, sweetly scented Jasmines, and " Buas " abound.

As is natural in such a forest-clad country as Fiji, native bird life principally finds its habitat in the forest, although there are a number of " swamp " species. Migratory birds such as Golden Plover and Curlew visit the coasts in large numbers at certain seasons of the year. Some of the birds of Fiji are exceedingly beautiful. The fruit pigeon, called the Orange Dove, and the

Golden Dove, outrival many, whilst small parrakeets are amongst the most gorgeous of their class. A large red and green parrot and several other fine varieties of pigeon are common to some parts of the Colony.

Butterfly life is not extensive or brilliant in feature, the few species that exist being forms of the New Guinea type. Dragonflies abound in great numbers and in considerable variety, and are said to play an important part in keeping the number of mosquitoes within limits.

Formerly, there were several varieties of snakes, all harmless, to be found throughout the Group, but these are now confined to those islands where the mongoose has not been liberated, and on those islands also lizard life is abundant.

Shore or attached reefs, barrier reefs, knolls and patches so abound off the coasts of Fiji as to make its waters an ocean labyrinth of unusual intricacy, yet not unduly difficult of navigation. Living corals in their varied and graceful forms and different hues, seen through the still clear water of the inner lagoons, present a unique and a wonderful sight, but the great utility of the reefs is that they form vast breakwaters within the shelter of which the navigator is sure to find safe and calm accommodation.

History.

Fijian history as recounted by native tradition may be said to have begun with the advent of the white race.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans who are unable to pronounce the letter "V," as well as other nations not so handicapped, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the *Duff*, was nearly lost on the reef off Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the *Bounty*, Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. *Province* in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendency in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him, he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, and at Lakeba, in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakabou adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakabou, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakabou induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakabou and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th of December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakabou, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales. was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakabou, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

Up to the year 1904 there was no political franchise in Fiji. The Legislative Council was nominated by the Crown, and included official and unofficial members, with the Governor as President.

Early in 1903 the European residents of the Colony addressed a Petition to His Majesty the King, praying that the right be granted to them to elect unofficial members to the Council. The contents of the Petition were settled by a Committee composed of delegates from the whole Colony. The petitioners desired that the franchise should be conferred only upon male adults who were born or naturalised British subjects, not being Indians, Fijians, or aboriginal Polynesians, who were able to read and write rudimentary English, who had resided in the Colony for not less than two years, and who had property qualifications, either freehold or leasehold, of £20 per annum, or an income of £120 per annum derived from any profession, trade, calling or business.

The petitioners asked, among other things, that they be permitted to elect twelve members, or not less than nine, and they suggested that the Colony should be divided into seven or more electorates, according to the number of members decided upon; that the election be for a term of three years; and that the elected members should themselves elect from among their number two of them to sit on the Executive Council.

The Governor, in forwarding the Petition, recommended for favourable consideration the prayer of the petitioners, in so far as it embodied the elective principle, which he considered might "properly be conceded to a community which has pushed its fortunes with energy and ability."

Attention was drawn to the fact that the petitioners had excluded entirely from all representation His Majesty's native-born Fijian subjects, who were the owners of the soil, and who then numbered 94,397, as against a white population of 2,447, not all of whom were residents. It was considered, therefore, that any proposals which did not provide for native representation would be incomplete.

The main difficulty presented in the proposals was the division of the Colony into electorates. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to arrive at a satisfactory division which would provide for representation in proportion to voting power.

It was finally decided that more effective representation would be afforded by providing for the election, by each class of the Colony's residents, of their own representatives. Thus the business and professional men, who resided mainly in Suva and

Levuka, were each to form a division, as were also the planters, who were scattered throughout the Colony. Suva was given two members, Levuka one, and the planters three. It was originally the intention that the latter class should be further divided, and that, with a view to serving sugar interests, one of the planters' representatives should be elected by the directors of the sugar companies. The natives were to have two members, and the Indians and Polynesian element were to be represented by the Agent-General of Immigration.

The Letters Patent conveying to the Colony its new Constitution were dated the 21st of March, 1904. They provided for ten official members, six elected members and two native members.

The new Letters Patent had not been long in existence when it was found that, owing to misapprehension and to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's Directorate declining to agree to the proposal that they should themselves, with the directorates of other sugar concerns, elect one of the Planters' representatives, an amendment of the Letters Patent became necessary. The original Letters Patent contained the following article in respect of the election of Planters' representatives :—

> The Elected Members of the Council shall be elected as follows :
>
> > Three members by persons duly qualified as electors as hereinbefore provided who are engaged either on their own behalf or in the employ of other persons, in the cultivation of land or the management of farms within the Colony of not less than 100 acres in extent, or in the production and manufacture of sugar, provided that the annual salary or wages derived from such employment be not less than £120.

The amending Letters Patent of the 25th of July, 1907, deleted the words which are underlined and substituted the words—

> "resident in the Colony elsewhere than in Suva or Levuka."

The effect of this amendment was to make every qualified elector competent to become a member of the Legislative Council.

In October, 1907, a representative of the Planters introduced into the Council a motion to amend the Letters Patent so as to permit the formation of separate electorates in country districts. He pointed out that under the system of so-called class representation it was impossible, owing to the geographical formation of the Colony and the difficulties of transport, for Planters' representatives to keep in touch with their constituents. Moreover, the expense of constant travelling was considerable and might affect adversely the representation of the people. This motion was not adopted, but the Government undertook to give full consideration to the representations that had been made, and in 1908 a Committee was appointed to revise the Regulations relating to electors. In their report, which was made in May, 1909, the Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that:

> The country districts which had hitherto been treated as one constituency should be divided into three.

Full consideration of the report led to the opinion that the three country members, as they were called, representing one constituency consisting of persons living in a number of more or less isolated places in each of which either sugar-cane, coconuts, or some other economic crop was the predominant object of cultivation, did not represent fairly all the different agricultural interests.

Consequently, the Letters Patent of 1910, which amended the original Letters Patent of 1904, were brought into operation. They provided for the following divisions :—

Suva and Levuka:

- Eastern (comprising the Provinces of Lomaiviti, Macuata, Bua, Cakaudrove and Lau);
- Northern (comprising the Provinces of Ra, Colo North, Colo West, Ba and Nadroga);
- Southern (comprising the Provinces of Rewa, Namosi, Serua, Naitasiri, Colo East, Tailevu and Kadavu).

Under this arrangement Suva continued to have two members, Levuka continued to have one member, and the remaining three seats were allotted to the three other divisons named.

In October, 1912, a motion was introduced into the Legislative Council by one of the country members with the object of increasing by two the number of the elected members. This, and several other questions, led to further revision of the constitution and, in the end, after much correspondence and debate, the Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, were granted. These revoked those of 1904, 1905, 1910 and 1911, which were till then in force. They provided for the following electorates :—

Suva	2 members.
Eastern	1 member (which includes Levuka)
Vanualevu and Taveuni ...	1 member.
Northern	1 member.
Southern	1 member.
Western	1 member.

The elected side of the Council was, therefore, increased by one and so also was the official side.

The constitution of the Legislative Council was again amended by Letters Patent, dated the 20th of July, 1916, which increased the number of nominated members from eleven to twelve, and empowered the appointment by nomination of a British subject not holding office under the Crown. The object of this amendment was to enable some measure of representation to be given to the Indian community.

The Council now consists of :—

12 nominated members (11 of whom are public officers),
2 native members, and
7 elected members.

The Governor is aided by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and two official and two unofficial members who are also members of the Legislative Council.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is vested in Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. These Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, traffic, building construction, etc., and they have control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are derived from Government grants, licences and rates. During the year under review the revenue collected by the Municipality of Suva amounted to £11,890. The total rate levied during the year in Suva was 10⅝d. in the £. The total expenditure incurred in Suva amounted to £10,376. In the Levuka Municipality there was collected revenue amounting to £3,686, and the expenditure incurred was £3,316.

The installation of a wood-fuel gas producer to replace the coke plant was completed in May at a cost of £2,380, and it is anticipated that a reduction in the cost of production of current will be effected.

Concrete poles were made and erected in place of the wooden poles to carry the electric light mains, costing £2,952; this sum, together with the amount of £2,380 for the cost of the wood-fuel gas producer, was met from a loan of £6,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 3 of 1923.

Negotiations for taking over the sewerage scheme installed by the Government in the Municipality of Suva were completed and the control of the system taken over by the Council in February at a valuation of £37,142.

Ordinance No. 15 of 1923 provides for an improved Fire Brigade Service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is now vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Native Affairs.

The system of native administration remains unchanged, and no additions or amendments have been made to the Native Regulations. Although the communal system remains nominally the same, there is continued evidence of the desire of the younger generation to attain to a more individualised mode of living. A certain number obtain certificates of exemption from communal duties, and these men support themselves and their families without assistance from the community; and a still larger number earn their living as clerks, sailors, carpenters, boat builders, mill hands, domestic servants and agricultural labourers. The vast majority of the natives, however, remain agriculturists, cultivating their tribal lands and living under a modified communal system. The natives show practically no inclination to engage in retail trade, and they remain content to leave this important branch of industry in the hands of Europeans, Chinese and Indians. The driving of motor-cars is likewise never undertaken by the natives, though many are employed in operating marine engines. On the other hand, the Fijians are at present largely supplanting the Indians in the sugar industry, and in some districts are taking readily to stock raising. There are many good horsemen among the natives, and they take the keenest interest in horse racing.

The chief agricultural products grown by Fijians are native foodstuffs, bananas, coconuts, sugar-cane, yaqona, pineapples and citrus fruits. The native foodstuffs consist chiefly of yams, dalo, breadfruit, tapioca, kumala and kawais. These form the main food supply of the natives, but are also used to a small extent for purposes of barter. The growing of bananas for export is almost entirely in the hands of the natives, and their cultivation in some of the islands within easy reach of Suva and Levuka is increasing. No attempt is made by them to export this fruit, but they remain content to sell it on the beach or at the nearest packing station to European buyers. A large portion of the copra exported from the Colony is native grown. All native copra is sun dried in somewhat primitive fashion, and there is no indication of a desire among the Fijians to take advantage of more modern methods of curing this copra. Until they do so little improvement can be expected in the quality of native-owned copra. In the proximity of the sugar mills a certain amount of sugar-cane is grown by the Fijians, who are gradually adopting modern methods of cultivation and using European agricultural implements. Some of the natives breed their own horses and bullocks, which they use for agricultural purposes. Pineapples and citrus fruits are grown by the natives in the vicinity of Suva, and are either sold locally or exported in small quantities to New Zealand.

In addition to agriculture, a certain number of Fijians engage in fishing, and most of the tortoise shell, trocas and bêche-de-mer are obtained by native fishermen.

The general health of the natives during the past year has been satisfactory, and the small increase in population has been maintained. The birth-rate for the period was 32·24 per 1,000, and the death-rate 22·53 per 1,000. The excess of births over deaths gives a natural increase in population of 840, or 9·7 per 1,000. The marriages among Fijians totalled 637.

Apart from a widespread epidemic of a mild type of influenza, from which only a few deaths resulted, no serious epidemic of infectious diseases occurred. A few small groups of cases of typhoid were reported, but in no case did the disease become epidemic. The decrease in the number of dysentery cases was maintained, and this once prevalent disease is now of comparatively rare occurrence. Over 4,400 injections of Salvarsan or NeoKharsivan were administered and have effected a considerable reduction in the number of cases of tertiary yaws and kindred diseases. The campaign, conducted under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation, for the eradication of Ankylostomiasis or Hookworm was continued with vigour. Forty thousand individuals, of which number one-half were Fijians, received treatment. There is no doubt that the wholesale treatment of the natives for this prevalent disease effects an improvement in the physical condition of the race. The native medical practitioners, who exercise constant supervision over the health of the natives in the country districts, treated 25,500 cases of major and minor ailments during the year.

Progress has been maintained in improving the educational facilities afforded to the natives. A new Provincial School, under a European headmaster, has been opened in Kadavu. The school provides for 60 boarders and 14 day boys. A new school, under a certificated native teacher, has been established at Nadi and accommodates 36 boarders. Improvements have been effected in the Native Schools of Colo North and Bua. Grants-in-aid have been given to such Mission Schools as satisfy the requirements of the Board of Education. Under the system of grants from public funds, which has been established to enable boys from Queen Victoria School, Nasinu, to obtain higher education in New Zealand and Australia, four boys are at present receiving special training at Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand.

Visits were paid by the Governor to the Provinces of Cakaudrove, Lautoka, Ra, Tailevu and Lau. In each province the Governor was welcomed with undiminished loyalty and respect by the natives. On the 3rd of November the Governor, accompanied by the Chief Justice and members of the Executive Council, opened the Council of Chiefs at Bau. The Council, under the Presidency of the Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, continued its deliberations for ten days, and its proceedings were marked with the dignity which is characteristic of the Fijian race. From the Chiefs nominated by the Council the Governor selected Ratu J. A. Rabici, O.B.E., and Ratu Pope Seniloli to be members of the Legislative Council. The Council offered on behalf of all the Provinces a contribution to be used in improving educational facilities at Queen Victoria School, Nasinu, to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Cession of Fiji to the Crown. The general tenor of the debates indicated a keen desire on the part of the Chiefs to promote the well-being and prosperity of the people, and to bear their share in the burden and responsibility of administration.

The Native Lands Commission, instituted for the purpose of investigating the ownership of native lands within the Colony, made good progress with its work during the year.

The Commission, which has statutory powers under Ordinances III of 1912 and VIII of 1919, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the hereditary property of native Fijians and the tribal divisions or sub-divisions of the people by whom the land is held.

For the purpose of their enquiries the members of the Commission are vested with the powers of Stipendiary Magistrates to summon and examine on oath native witnesses who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being enquired into, or any person likely to be interested in the title of the land. They are also required, when investigating the ownership of any land, to ascertain and record the name of any person who holds any customary title or office in respect of the land. All evidence is taken by the Commission in the Fijian language. Any native feeling aggrieved at any decision of the Commission has the right of appeal to the Governor-in-Council, provided that notice of intention to appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the finding of the Commission.

When ownership has been investigated and recorded by the Native Lands Commission the boundaries of the lands are surveyed by surveyors employed by the Government for this purpose. On the completion of the survey the boundary descriptions and the names of the respective owners are recorded in Registers and deposited, together with copies of the plans, with the Registrar of Titles, who is charged by law with the duty of preserving the Registers with the same care as freehold titles. Copies of the Registers, in the Fijian language, as far as they affect each proprietary unit, are given to each for public use.

The cost of the survey is borne by the respective owners; it is computed in accordance with the scale of charges prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any land-owning unit is unable to pay for the survey of its lands, he is empowered by law to make such an order as seems to him fit and just under the circumstances.

During the year the Commission completed investigations in the provinces of Naitasiri, Rewa East, and the district of Wailevu West in the province of Cakaudrove.

The work in Rewa East was difficult and laborious. It was found that the customs governing the ownership of native lands differed in some respects from other provinces, and entailed more sub-division than has been found necessary elsewhere. Although the province is comparatively small, over one thousand holdings in all were recorded.

The work in Wailevu West was undertaken specially on account of the prospecting for gold that was being carried on there, so as to provide the Government with full information as to the ownership of native lands in the event of resumptions having to be made under the Mining Ordinance.

Survey operations were carried on in the provinces of Ra, Lomaiviti and Macuata. At headquarters the Registers of Native Lands and Native Landowners for the islands of Koro, Nairai and Batiki were compiled and registered.

During the year the Commission suffered considerable loss through the death of the senior native member, Ratu A. Savenaca Seniloli, whose extensive knowledge of native customs was of great value to the Commission. He was one of the highest chiefs of Fiji, and had a long and honourable record in the Colonial Service.

Indian Affairs.

The s.s. *Ganges*, which was chartered to convey Indian repatriates, arrived in the Colony on the 31st of October, bringing 135 passengers and 150 tons of cargo from India. The vessel sailed on November 6th, conveying 986 souls, including 289 children, equal in all to 841½ statute adults. The repatriates, the majority of whom were Madrassis, took with them remittances and jewellery valued at £24,318. A total of 146 immigrants, to whom passage notices had been issued, failed to avail themselves of a passage, and the vacancies thus caused were filled up in Suva.

Indian, as well as native, labourers were employed in sugar-cane cultivation and in the sugar mills. The price of the commodity remained steady, and field labour received wages at the rate of 1*s*. 8*d*. per diem, plus bonus at the rate of 6*d*. per week of 5½ days. They had also the privilege granted by employers of purchasing their daily requirements at cost price (landed in the Colony) at the various sugar centres.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company adopted the policy of financing certain Indians as sugar farmers. The Company supplied the growers with necessary materials and, at the close of the season, paid the Indian for the cane supplied to the mill after deducting the amounts advanced.

Owing to the cessation of operations by the Vancouver Sugar Company at Navua, a number of Indians left that district to seek employment at other centres, and the population of Navua is now, for the most part, engaged in rice cultivation.

The Penang Sugar Company, in the district of Ra, which did not crush at their mill during 1923, decided to resume operations in 1924, a decision which will benefit considerably the Indians resident in that district.

One hundred and one bales, containing 33,072 lb. of Sea Island cotton, were exported to the United Kingdom. The market value of this product, which is mainly grown by Indians, has not as yet been ascertained, and, provided there is a reasonable margin of profit, it is natural to suppose that an increased area will be planted in the forthcoming season.

The establishment of the Government Rice Mill absorbed the surplus supplies of paddy, a crop which is grown almost entirely by the Indian population. During the year, 1,010 tons were purchased for the sum of £8,490.

During the year, 429 leases for 4,702 acres of land were approved to Indians.

Dr. Surendra K. Datta, President of the All-India Conference of Indian Christians, visited the Colony in August and addressed several meetings. Transport facilities were provided by the Government to enable him to visit members of the Indian population in certain parts of the Colony.

General Observations.

Trade conditions showed improvement during the year. The total value of exports exceeded imports by a sum of £564,279, and the revenue of the Colony exceeded expenditure by £50,316. There is a general feeling of optimism with regard to the future prospects of the Colony, and a Committee has been appointed to examine in detail the financial position, with a view to the flotation of a loan.

The Colony experienced an unusual and severe gale from the 26th to the 29th of November. A considerable amount of damage was done to native breadfruit trees and other crops, and a number of native thatched houses were destroyed. Large plantations were not seriously affected.

The Commission appointed to enquire into the cost of living sat in September, and found that there was no appreciable difference between the present cost of living and that during the year 1922.

A new 8-in. main for the Suva water supply, costing £31,000, was completed by the Public Works Department early in the year. The length of the main is approximately six miles, and required for its construction 3,500 cast-iron pipes. Water is delivered at the rate of 37,000 gallons per hour into the reservoir. The main passes through a tunnel in the Red Hill, constructed by the Royal Engineers in the year 1882, which, on examination, proved still to be in good order.

Continued progress was made during the year with the Boy Scout Movement. In addition to the three European troops which were formed in Suva during the year 1922, three further troops, consisting of Fijians, Indians and half-castes, were raised and equipped.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital was completed at the end of November and officially opened by His Excellency Sir C. H. Rodwell, K.C.M.G., on the 2nd of December. The Hospital, which stands on a commanding site overlooking Suva Harbour, has been built on the most modern lines. Its main features are a large European male ward, which will accommodate fourteen or more beds, a European female ward with seven beds, two wards of two beds each, five private wards and ophthalmic ward, a male native ward with twenty-one beds, two native female wards of fourteen beds each, and two small wards of two beds each. In addition there is an operating theatre and a modern X-ray apparatus, which was generously provided by the Honourable H. Marks, C.B.E. The total cost of the new building, including certain additional minor works which are not yet completed, will be £54,600. Of this sum an amount of £20,000 was provided by public subscription.

The General Elections were held in November, and the following gentlemen were duly elected members of the Legislative Council for the various Divisions :—

> Sir John Maynard Hedstrom, Eastern Division; Henry Marks, Esq., C.B.E., and Henry Milne Scott, Esq., K.C., Municipality of Suva; Thomas William Alport Barker, Esq., Southern Division; Arthur Hallam Roberts, Esq., Vanua Levu and Taveuni Division; Henry Lamb Kennedy, Esq., Northern Division; and Percival William Faddy, Esq., Western Division.

Sir Alfred Karney Young, K.C., was appointed Chief Justice and arrived in the Colony on the 28th of June.

The Right Reverend Leonard Kempthorne arrived in the Colony on the 18th June to take up his duties as Bishop in Polynesia.

H. B. Lees, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Commissioner of Works, was transferred to Palestine as Director of Public Works.

Vital Statistics.

The deaths during the year 1923 and the percentage of the respective class of population were as follows :—

Europeans, 24, being 0·61 per cent.
Fijians, 1,951, being 2·25 per cent.
Indians, 440, being 0·68 per cent.
Others (excluding Rotumans), 56, being 0·85 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans, 83, being 2·12 per cent.
Fijians, 2,791, being 3·22 per cent.
Indians, 2,022, being 3·13 per cent.
Others (excluding Rotumans), 130, being 1·98 per cent.

Eight hundred and seventy-seven marriages were registered, being at the rate of 0·53 of the population.

Public Health.

Fiji is exceptionally healthy for a tropical country. It is protected against most of the infectious fevers by its distance from a continent. The absence of the Anopheles mosquito prevents the occurrence of malaria. Plague, yellow fever, smallpox or cholera have never gained admittance. Neither scarlet-fever nor diphtheria appears to flourish. First attacks of appendicitis hardly ever occur in Fiji. Dysentery is steadily decreasing. The climate is, however, generally unsatisfactory for those suffering from tuberculosis or asthma. The moist heat has an enervating effect on the nervous system.

The campaign against Hookworm or Ankylostomiasis was prosecuted vigorously during 1923. Nearly a third of the population received treatment, and sanitary measures were pushed forward. The Fijians and East Indians were found to be affected in almost equal proportions, but the species of worm generally found in Fijians (*Necator Americanus*) is different from that in Indians (*Ankylostoma duodenale*). It is interesting that, although Indian immigration began over forty years ago, the amount of mixed infection should still be so small. The infection is comparatively slight in parts where the rainfall is low, but very heavy where it is high. Correspondingly, the physique and general well-being of the Indian population are much higher on the dry than on the wet side of the main islands.

Intravenous injection continues to give good results in leprosy, and several more cases have qualified for discharge from the Asylum.

Education, through Native Medical Practitioners and other means, is removing from the native mind the belief in the desirability of infection of children with Yaws. The Salvarsan group of drugs is much sought after, and, if funds allow, it is now practicable to consider the eradication of a disease almost as deadly in its after effects as syphilis is elsewhere.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports and exports of the past two years, excluding transhipment goods, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1922	946,063	1,863,172	2,809,235
1923	989,060	1,553,239	2,542,299

There is a preferential tariff in favour of the products and manufactures of the British Empire.

Foreign goods subject to *ad valorem* rates pay 12½ per cent. higher rate of duty than British goods of the same description and those liable to specific rates of duty 100 per cent. higher.

The balance of trade of the Colony still remains satisfactory.

Of the total trade of the Colony during 1923, 65·60 per cent. was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and 13·30 per cent. with the United Kingdom. The balance of the total trade, *i.e.*, 21·10 per cent., was chiefly with Europe and the United States of America. The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom rose from 12·98 per cent. in 1922 to 13·30 per cent. in 1923. That with British Possessions fell from 74·15 per cent. in 1922 to 65·60 per cent. in 1923, and that with foreign countries increased from 12·87 per cent. in 1922 to 21·20 per cent. in 1923. The increase of trade with foreign countries is accounted for by the fact that approximately 90 per cent. of the copra exported from the Colony went direct to foreign countries, principally Europe.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Bananas.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.
		£		£		£
1922 ...	71,731	1,342,874	21,987	346,096	358,122	45,717
1923 ...	44,108	866,287	24,161	443,445	406,607	94,325

Other principal domestic exports were as follows :—

Article.		1922.		1923.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Coconuts	No.	879,250	4,626	270,230	1,119
Bêche-de-mer ...	Cwt.	637	2,986	428	1,844
Trocas Shell ...	Tons	552	16,191	439	12,430
Rubber	Cwt.	82	571	801	5,128
Molasses	Tons	10,056	10,136	8,392	8,392

FINANCE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £479,982, or £29,827 more than the revenue for 1922. The principal increases were :—

	1922.	1923.
	£	£
Import Dues...	186,934	201,668
Export Dues	55,794	62,196

No additional taxation was imposed during 1923, and the total taxation remains comparatively light.

The expenditure for the year was £429,666, or £100,695 less than the expenditure for 1922.

A comparison between the two years 1922 and 1923 is as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
1922	450,155	530,361	80,206	—
1923	479,982	429,666	—	50,316

The surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year 1923 is due to an amount of £44,000 collected as an export tax on sugar during the year 1922, but brought to account in 1923, and to economies effected generally throughout the public services of the Colony.

The Loan Debt of the Colony may be stated as follows :—

	£	
Public Works Loan	150,000	Short term loans, advances and overdrafts for public works, etc., pending the raising of a long-term loan.
Returned Soldiers and Sailors Advances Loan	10,000	
Advances by the Crown Agents	494,000	
Local Overdrafts	20,213	
	£674,213	

The currency in circulation consists of Government Notes and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	321,211
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (Sovereigns)	80,896
Securities (Market price at 31st Dec., 1923)	290,133
Depreciation Fund Investments	11,406
	£382,435
Surplus on Values at December 31st, 1923	£61,224

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1923 produced a net surplus of £10,357, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		14,527
Expenses	1,640	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	2,530	
		4,170
Surplus		£10,357

Although the Colony is still feeling the effect of the existing world-wide depression, its financial position is improving.

BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £5,029,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £455,730, and by the Bank of New Zealand £255,419.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 2,353 to 2,604, while the amount of deposits made during the year decreased from £76,295 to £64,216. On the other hand, the total amount of deposit at the end of the year was £10,705 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st of December, 1922.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st of December, 1923, was £81,232, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (Market price on 31st December, 1923)	**77,765**	
Cash awaiting investment	**5,232**	
		82,997
Surplus ...		**£1,765**

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1923 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		**3,677**
Interest credited to depositors	**2,424**	
Expenses	**137**	
		2,561
Surplus ...		**£1,116**

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.—The quantity of sugar exported during 1923 was 44,108 tons, valued at £866,287, a decrease of 27,623 tons exported as compared with the previous year. This decrease in production is attributable to a reduction in the acreage planted with cane, owing to labour troubles in 1921. It is, however, anticipated that an increased production may soon be expected.

Bananas.—The export of bananas during the year amounted to 406,607 bunches, valued at £94,325, as compared with 358,122 bunches exported in 1922, an increase of 48,485 bunches.

Coconut Industry.—The quantity of copra exported during the year was 2,174 tons in excess of the quantity exported during the previous year, with an increase in value of £97,349. Copra prices showed an appreciable increase during the year.

Rice.—The production of paddy has increased to such an extent that the Colony is now self-supporting in rice, and a small export trade with other islands has been commenced. The Government Rice Mill disposed of over 800 tons of rice of excellent quality at prices below landed costs of imported rice.

Trocas Shell.—The quantity of this shell exported was 439 tons, valued at £12,430. The principal market of trocas shell is in Japan, where the shell is made into buttons, which closely resemble mother-of-pearl.

Pineapples.—The export of fresh pineapples amounted to 6,443 cases, valued at £2,088. A trial shipment made to Canada, with a view to ascertaining whether the fruit was suitable for canning, arrived in excellent condition, and after canning was very favourably reported on.

Rubber.—The export of rubber increased from 9,124 lb., valued at £571, for 1922 to 89,753 lb., valued at £5,128, for the year under review.

Cotton.—One hundred and one bales, containing 33,072 lb. of Sea-island cotton, were prepared for export during the year. The Government has introduced new varieties of seed for trial in the Colony.

Biscuits.—A biscuit factory, erected in 1922, meets the local demand for this class of food. Some 115,185 lb. of biscuits, valued at £2,604, were exported to neighbouring islands during the year.

Miscellaneous Exports.—The following products were exported during the year in addition to the above: Molasses, 8,392 tons, valued at £8,392; Bêche-de-mer, 21 tons, valued at £1,844; Hides, 3,862, valued at £3,227; Turtle Shell, 545 lb., valued at £393; Oil, Coconut, 358 tons, valued at £10,174.

Timber.—Many valuable timbers are found in Fiji. At present, however, the export of timber is limited, due mainly to the difficulties of internal transport. Several small mills provide sufficient timber for local use and for the manufacture of the cases in which bananas are exported. During the year 1921 a concession over the mangrove timbers surrounding Vitilevu was granted to a company, which has now erected machinery for the purpose of extracting tannin from the bark.

Cattle.—Cattle thrive well in all parts of Fiji. There are no serious endemic diseases affecting cattle, nor are there any infected ticks. Every precaution is taken by inspection and treatment of animals, both at the port of embarkation and at the port of arrival in the Colony, to guard against the introduction of diseases and pests from outside sources. "Stores" can best be raised in the dry zones, whereas the luxuriant state of the wetter zones is more suited for fattening purposes. Large areas of land suitable for raising cattle are available for leasing.

Dairying.—The Dairy Scheme for returned sailors and soldiers has proved that excellent butter can be produced in Fiji under conditions which offer very good prospects to dairy farmers. Considerable quantities of butter are now placed on the local market. Samples of Fiji butter have been examined by New Zealand Government dairying experts, who have pronounced it to be of first class quality.

Two private Dairying Companies have also been formed, one in Rewa and the other in Navua.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. III, the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause), the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council may issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown Lands are submitted to public auction, usually at an upset premium of £2 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. The lessee is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1*d*. to 2*s*. per acre, coconut lands from 6*d*. to 5*s*.; hill land for rubber from 6*d*. to 2*s*; banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The total land alienated to settlers is about one-fifth of the area of the Colony. Three-sevenths of the remainder are of a mountainous character, unsuited for commercial cultivation, and, in any case, a considerable proportion of it will be kept as forest reservations.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1923:—

Agriculture and Land Tenure.

Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of Alienation. No. of Lots and Area Estimated.		Total Area.	Total Area of Colony
		Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Freehold ..	1,573	528,106	1	1	528,107	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land ..	180	9,946	94	8,390	18,336	—
Leases of Native Land ..	5,783	271,763	1,675	99,259	371,022	—
					917,465	4,523,620

Note:— The land in process of alienation includes the Fiji Development Company's Tova Estate, 78,400 acres.

EDUCATION.

In 1923 the expenditure on Education was £25,322, as compared with £28,956 in 1922, £26,151 in 1921, £19,990 in 1920, and £14,185 in 1919.

The two schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 203 in December, 1923: (Boys' Grammar School, 77; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed Kindergarten, 126). There were 66 children from the country boarded in the Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

On the 31st of December, 1923, there were 24 schools receiving grants-in-aid under the Primary Schools Regulations, and 22 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter, 17 are for Fijians and 5 for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government-Assisted Training Colleges, but the Davuilevu Institute of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of twelve students who passed the Teachers' Qualifying Examination. Government assistance has also been continued during part of 1923 towards the maintenance of six Indian students who were sent to India to study at the Allahabad Agricultural College and who returned in June to Fiji. The Fijian student trained at Hawkesbury College has returned to Fiji, and four other Fijians trained at Queen Victoria School, Fiji, have been sent to Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand.

There were 20 passes out of the 43 candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1921, 17 passes out of 36 candidates in 1922, and 34 passes out of 59 candidates in December, 1923.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918. Five hundred and eighty-nine schools and 1,056 teachers have been registered up to the 31st of December, 1923.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four Joint Provincial Schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites and building materials and of staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools was opened in September, 1921, the second was built in 1922 and opened in January, 1923, and a third was opened in October, 1923.

There are now altogether 56 Government and Assisted Schools, 19 being for Indians, 29 for Fijians, one receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 7 for Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 4,123 pupils, of whom 1,358 are Indians, 2,281 are Fijians, and 484 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. The staff consists of 32 European, 59 Fijian, and 31 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

In January, 1923, the Acting-Superintendent of Schools visited New Zealand, and arrangements were completed for the scheme of co-operation with the New Zealand Education Department. The Director of Education, New Zealand, visited Fiji in July and inspected the two Government Schools in Suva and the one in Levuka. It is anticipated that the scheme of co-operation will be in operation by January, 1924.

CLIMATE.

The meteorological observations for 1923 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 109·33 inches, as against 158·10 inches in 1922, and 170·74 in 1921. This rainfall is 6·19 inches below the average, and rain fell on 228 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was on the 18th of February, when 7·72 inches were recorded.

Station.	Total for 1923.	Average Annual Rainfall to end of 1923 (in inches).
Narovurovu (Ba) ..	114·92	120·33
Navisa (Ba) ..	115·34	92·89
Rarawai, (Ba)	112·35	81·18
Nabouwalu, Bua	99·72	106·48
Wainunu, Bua	141·38	149·09
Buca Bay	80·60	95·96
Rabi	118·48	149·00
Savusavu Bay	85·96	105·04
Vuna, Taveuni	124·23	127·55
Waiyevo, Taveuni ..	79·68	99·76
Vunidawa, Colo East ..	111·96	138·82
Nadarivatu, Colo North ..	106·94	128·70
Tavua, Colo North ..	77·84	70·83
Munia, Lau	82·78	70·33
Nabavatu, Lau	77·57	77·28
Lautoka C.S.R. Co. ..	71·99	68·52
Levuka	100·15	91·94
Makogai	91·76	79·10
Labasa C.S.R. Co. ..	82·37	80·64
Nadi	72·96	64·03
Lawaqa, Nadroga ..	75·80	70·23
Rakiraki, Ra	100·10	82·51
Suva	109·33	115·52
Navua	101·48	132·34
Nausori	95·54	113·15
Rotuma	129·21	135·88

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 70·4° F. minimum, 81·0° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 75·7° F. The highest temperature recorded was 91·0° F. on the 12th of February, and the lowest was 55·5° F. on 30th of August. The hottest month was January, with an average temperature of 86·6° F. maximum, and 74·1° F. minimum, and the coolest month was August, with an average of 77·4° F. maximum, and 67·6° minimum.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	1922.		1923.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	123	329,032	120	358,849
American	1	677	5	6,353
Swedish	3	5,370	—	—
Norwegian	1	3,129	5	19,340
French	—	—	1	4,427
Total ..	128	338,208	131	389,969

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

Nationality.	1922.		1923.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
European-owned vessels ..	67	1,657	75	2,682
Native-owned vessels	50	528	67	687
Other vessels	20	194	23	212
Total ..	137	2,379	165	3,581

Regular steamer communication with Fiji is as follows :—

To and from Sydney, via Auckland, Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line of steamers, four-weekly.

To and from Sydney, A.U.S.N. Company's passenger steamer, four-weekly.

From Sydney, Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, cargo steamer, four-weekly.

To and from Vancouver, via Honolulu, Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line, four-weekly.

From the United Kingdom, the New Zealand Shipping Company's cargo steamers, quarterly.

To the United Kingdom, Clan Line of cargo steamers, two-monthly.

Roads.

The total length of metalled roads in the Colony is less than 100 miles, but with gravelled roads and certain unmetalled roads in the dry zone the total length of roads capable of being used by motor traffic in fine weather is about 230 miles. Of this length about 110 miles is unsuitable for motor traffic during the wet season.

Bridle tracks linking up native villages and isolated estates are interlaced across the principal islands.

Roads that have been proclaimed as public roads as prescribed by Ordinance 21 of 1914 are maintained at the expense of the general revenue. Bridle tracks connecting native villages are weeded and kept generally in fair order communally in accordance with arrangements included annually in programmes of work drawn up in pursuance of resolutions adopted in native provincial councils.

A sum of £27,306 was spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges during the year, and £4,652 on improvement works. The total expenditure from revenue was £31,958, as compared with £33,942 in the preceding year.

Work on the main trunk road across the Island of Vitilevu was continued during the year and good progress made. The expenditure on this service for the year amounted to £10,236, which, together with the expenditure of £10,606 in 1922, brings the total expenditure to £20,842. Earthwork formation was completed to the 11½ mile post. Two additional miles of finished road were opened to traffic, while pitching was practically complete to the 10 mile post. The first section of 11½ miles from Suva to Sawani Village, on the Waimanu River, will be completed and opened in 1924.

Rivers.

There are only three rivers which are navigable for any distance except by small or native craft. The most important is the Rewa River which forms the main channel of communication between Suva and the interior of Vitilevu. This river is kept free of obstacles by the Rewa River Board, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Government, and is navigable for a distance of 50 miles for light draught launches.

For some years past the eradication of water hyacinth in the main rivers, and more particularly the Rewa River, has involved some expense to Government. Its rapid spread, tending to choke streams used more particularly by natives, necessitated its being declared a noxious weed, and, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1919, the Governor-in-Council prescribed the steps to be taken by occupiers of land throughout the Colony for the eradication of the pest.

Railways.

There are no Government railways in the Colony, but the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have a narrow gauge railway extending from Tavua to Sigatoka, a distance of approximately 120 miles, over which, free of charge, passengers are carried on specified days.

Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service.

Steamers of the following lines, namely, the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer *Pioneer*, several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which eleven and a half miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement. hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line to Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

LEGISLATION.

During the year, twenty-five Ordinances were passed. The following may be mentioned as of general interest :—

No. 8 requires the registration of business names by firms trading in the Colony, and is modelled on the recent Imperial Act.

No. 13 provides for the compulsory training for three years of youths between the ages of 18 and 22, and replaces the Defence Force Ordinance, 1914.

No. 16 imposes a tax on all males, other than Fijians and Rotumans, between the ages of 18 and 60 resident in the Colony.

No. 17 places certain restrictions on the immigration of aliens. No alien may land without a passport issued or vised by a British official, unless he has been specially exempted by the Governor from the provisions of the Ordinance.

No. 18 authorizes the issue of a New Edition of the Colony's laws.

No. 23 consolidates the Export Duties Ordinances, and (*inter alia*) abolishes the sugar tax and reduces the tax on copra to 2*s*. 6*d*. per ton.

D. R. STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1182	Uganda	1922
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
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84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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REPORT FOR 1924.

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.*

General.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole group itself is situated midway between the Tongan or Friendly Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin to volcanic upheaval and to the busy operations of the coral polyps. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group. Although Fiji appears not to be the focus of volcanic action, masses of pumice stone, drifting at intervals on the shores of the Colony, indicate the proximity of submarine disturbances.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd. 7622-39.)

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet. The slopes of these altitudes are, for the most part, densely wooded, but only in a few places can virgin forests be said to exist. Fijians for ages past have used the same system of agriculture as at present, felling new areas of forest for their crops when the fertility of the old has become exhausted, and it may be due in some measure to these methods that secondary rather than virgin forests generally appear to be re-established. The forests of Fiji, although only lightly explored, yield useful timber in considerable quantity.

Of brilliant flowers there are few, but the Yasiyasi (*Engonia Rivularis*) when in flower are exceedingly gorgeous, whilst a terrestrial orchid (*Phajus*) and two or three mountain Dendrobriums are also noteworthy. The majority of the native flowers are, however, white, many being beautifully scented. In the Bua Province the country is park-like, and Eugenias, sweetly-scented Jasmines, and "Buas" abound.

Fiji possesses a great variety of bird life. Of indigenous birds there are about 100 known species, and, in addition, imported species number approximately fifteen. A complete ornithological survey of the Group has not yet, however, been made, although an interesting and a valuable report on the subject has been written by Dr. Casey A. Wood, M.D., LL.D., of Chicago, U.S.A., who spent some months in the Colony investigating the subject. Useful and ornamental birds are protected by law, and the shooting of birds of any kind is confined practically to the white population and to the comparatively few natives and Indians who are permitted the use of arms.

Most of the shore birds seen on the coasts of Fiji are migrants, although some of them nest on the islands. These include the Godwit (*Limosa uropygialis*), the Lesser Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus fuscus*), Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), and several other visitors. Native bird life principally finds its habitat in the forest.

Butterfly life is not extensive or brilliant in feature, the few species that exist being forms of the New Guinea type. Dragonflies abound in great numbers and in considerable variety, and are said to play an important part in keeping the number of mosquitoes within limits.

Formerly, there were several varieties of snakes, all harmless, to be found throughout the Group, but these are now confined to those islands where the mongoose has not been liberated, and on those islands also lizard life is abundant.

HISTORICAL.

Fijian history as recounted by native tradition may be said to have begun with the advent of the white race.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the *Duff*, was nearly lost on the reef off Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the *Bounty*, Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. "Province" in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendency in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him, he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba, in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakabou adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakabou, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakabou induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakabou and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th of December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakabou, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakabou, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, two other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 15 of 1923 provides for an improved Fire Brigade Service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

THE COLONY'S JUBILEE.

Historically, the important feature of the year 1924 was, of course, the celebration at Levuka, on the 10th October, 1924, of Fiji's jubilee as a Crown Colony. After fifty years of British rule, at the same place and hour the same " lali " or native drum was beaten by the old Chief who beat it at Cession, announcing to the many people present the commencement of ceremonies arranged in honour of the occasion and of the presence of the Acting Governor. His Excellency was accompanied by His Honour the Chief Justice, Members of the Executive Council, and the Commander and Officers of H.M.S. " Laburnum."

Peace was the object of the Cession by the Chiefs of their country, and the Fijian appreciates the peace that for nearly fifty years has remained unbroken " throughout the land "; prosperity also was the desire of those Europeans living here then who advocated the offer and the acceptance of the Cession, and there has been more than ordinary prosperity. The value of trade has grown from £198,000 in 1876 to £2,565,528 in 1924; an advance due mainly to the development of the sugar industry and the accretions to the Colony's population which that development has entailed. But apart from material considerations, the progress of the native race has been considerable. It is not many decades since he was a savage of the most barbarous kind. From that condition, owing in the first place to the efforts of the Missions, and in the second to the combined endeavour of the Missions and the Government, he has been raised to a comparatively high state of civilisation. To-day the Fijian is a law-abiding and a loyal citizen of the Empire.

The administrative policy of the Government in Fijian matters continues to be that founded by the late Lord Stanmore (of whom to-day the Fijians still speak with unimpaired devotion), who administered native affairs in such a way as to harmonise with native custom, adhering to those customs which were best and eliminating the worst. The system which he inaugurated has endured successfully to the great benefit and contentment of the people.

Fifty years have brought about a vast change in the constitution of the Colony's population, which at Cession consisted almost entirely of aboriginal natives and some 2,000 Europeans and other whites. The native population at the present time, while being still the largest section of the community, numbers only approximately 20,000 more than the total Indian population, and, notwithstanding repatriation, less than three times the number of Indians born in the Colony since immigration first commenced in 1879.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The year was marked also by the Colony's participation in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley and by the visit to England of three native Chiefs who, in accordance with the native custom of "sikovi" observed on auspicious occasions, paid homage and conveyed the dutiful respects of the Fijian race to their Great Chief, His Majesty the King. The gracious message which His Majesty sent to his subjects in Fiji on the 10th of October, and his reception of their Chiefs were a source of much gratification to the Fijian race and to all sections of the community.

That wide attention was drawn to this Colony at the Exhibition is shown by the great number of communications that have been received from persons seeking information regarding the Colony. In the words of Sir Bickham Escott, K.C.M.G., the Colony's representative, the Fiji Court, though perhaps the smallest at the Exhibition, was by no means the least attractive. The Colony is grateful to Sir Bickham Escott and to Sir Maynard Hedstrom, the Commissioner, for their untiring efforts to bring Fiji prominently not only to the notice of visitors to the Exhibition but generally to the notice of the world. The following extract from the report submitted by Sir Maynard Hedstrom, the Commissioner, on his return to the Colony, is of interest :—

> "Your Excellency will doubtless desire an expression of my opinion as to the benefits which will accrue to the Colony as a result of its participation in the British Empire Exhibition. I think this question must be considered from the standpoint adopted by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies when he said : 'I tell you the British peoples will not measure the value of Wembley within the compass of a balance sheet.'

"The Exhibition will show a heavy financial loss and yet the British peoples will judge it a great success. It has been a splendid gathering of the British Confederation, and it has been of very great educational value, particularly to the people of England. Millions of people have learned more about the Empire and its possibilities than they ever knew before, and many thousands of visitors from overseas have been drawn closer together and to the Mother Country by means of this Exhibition. In this great educational work Fiji has taken its full share, and it would have been a mistake and a misfortune if the Colony had refrained from participation. Some Colonies can show practical and tangible results from the Exhibition. It is said that Burmah, with its great supplies of teak, found new and greater markets. Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand each had definite objects: (*a*) to encourage immigration; (*b*) to popularise their products; and no doubt gained considerable success in both directions.

"In the case of Colonies like Hongkong, Ceylon, Malta, etc., the objects were less clear and definite, but their Courts were like great bazaars, and the profits on goods sold should help to pay the cost of their representation.

"Fiji has no authorised scheme of migration to offer the casual inquirer; it is not definitely in search of a new market for its products, and it did not establish a bazaar for the sale of souvenirs and trinkets. I believe the main result of our representation has been to make Fiji and its possibilities better known through Great Britain and the Empire than ever before."

VISIT OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON.

Fiji was fortunate in its inclusion in the itinerary of the World Cruise of the Special Service Squadron in May under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick L. Field, K.C.B., C.M.G. The Squadron remained in Suva Harbour for six days, and its visit was the source of the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to local residents, who co-operated whole-heartedly in providing a round of entertainment for officers and men. In response to a request made by the residents of Levuka, Sir Frederick Field was good enough to vary the Squadron's course after leaving Suva and to steam past Levuka close to the entrance to the Harbour, thus enabling the residents of the old capital to have a near view of the vessels under his command. The Vice-Admiral's courtesy in this matter was much appreciated.

The visit of the Special Service Squadron of the Fleet in May forms a landmark in the history of the Fijians. The Fleet was met at the entrance to the Harbour by native canoes, and a native welcome consisting of chiefly ceremonies and dances was later given to the officers and men of the Squadron. At the invitation of the Acting Governor many of the officers visited the Island of Beqa and witnessed native dances and an exhibition of fire-walking. Many thousands of natives congregated in Suva and visited the warships which created in their minds an impression of unimaginable strength and power. The visit of the Special Service Squadron will be the subject of song and legend amongst the natives for many years to come.

THE GOVERNOR.

On the 19th January His Excellency Sir C. H. Rodwell, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave to England, and the administration of Government was assumed by the Honourable T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who acted as Governor throughout the year. On the 10th October Sir C. H. Rodwell relinquished the appointment.

LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Transactions in native and Crown lands in 1924 showed a general increase of about 18 per cent. above the figures for 1923. Indian settlement continued to expand in the sugar districts, and an increased demand for grazing leases of hill land on the fringes of the cane areas was noticeable. In any agricultural community, subject to increase from natural causes only, the number of applications for leases of land is an index of its prosperity, and it is apparent that the Indian inhabitants of this Colony, at any rate in the sugar areas, are enjoying a reasonable return from the fruits of their labours. The opening of the first section of the " Prince's Road " has resulted in the settling of native lands along its route, by Indians. This area lies from four to eight miles from Suva, and the crops cultivated consist chiefly of vegetables, pineapples, bananas and yaqona (Kava). A proportion of the fruit is exported to New Zealand and the balance finds a ready local market.

Nine hundred and forty-two applications for leases of native lands aggregating 20,400 acres were received, and of these 493 applications for 5,996 acres were approved and 236 applications for 8,936 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 89 per cent. of the total, the remainder being distributed equally under the two heads " Europeans " and " Others " (including Chinese, Fijians and Polynesians).

Ninety-six applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 10,798 acres. Of these fifty applications for 1,486 acres were approved and thirty-five for 6,813 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration increased from 799 in 1923 to 906 in 1924. Two hundred and sixty-one plans of surveys of native and Crown leases were examined and passed during the year, being an increase of forty-five on the figures for 1923. The position regarding the survey of leases had for some years been unsatisfactory, and during the year certain amendments were made to the regulations governing the approval of leases with the result that, henceforth, surveys of leases will be arranged by the Government, and will not, as heretofore, be a matter of contract between the lessee and a private surveyor. New Regulations under the Surveyors' Ordinance were also brought into force providing for the better control of the private surveyors and for a higher and more modern standard of work.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The main public works undertaken during the year were as follows :—

(*a*) Completion of Prince's Road, providing a circular motor route 28 miles in extent, opened to public traffic in October. This road will long be associated with the name of Mr. C. B. Sealy, Public Works Department Surveyor, who was murdered on the 1st August, 1924, near the seven-mile post whilst conveying wages to be paid to the labourers working on the road.

(*b*) The ferry crossing Rewa River, between Davuilevu and Nausori, was improved by the completion of a groin about 500 feet in length, which also serves the purpose of a causeway. The effects of this work on the river bed have been extremely satisfactory, and the ferry service now proceeds without interruption.

(*c*) The Colonial War Memorial Hospital was completed in November at a cost of about £54,000. This institution, which is complete with all modern facilities, should meet the central medical requirements of the Colony for many years to come.

(*d*) Construction was commenced on the Indian Hospital at Lautoka, and Joint Provincial School at Nadi.

(*e*) Work was commenced on the beaconing of Fiji waters.

The normal work of the Department concerning the maintenance of roads, bridges, buildings, water supplies, etc., was carried out without important incident and as far as funds permitted.

Although the services of labourers were not always easy to obtain, the supply was, as a rule, sufficient, and no change was made in the rate of wages.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Colony, as previously stated, amounted to £2,565,528, which exceeds by £23,000 the total trade of the previous year. This condition is due mainly to additional imports (£77,534), which were counterbalanced, however, by a falling off of exports (£53,305). Exports of sugar were less in value to the extent of £97,577, although the quantity exceeded slightly that exported in 1923. On the other hand the exports of copra, though less in quantity owing to abnormal rainfall, exceeded in value the exports of the previous year by a sum in excess of £41,000. Bananas exported were valued at £21,000 more than in 1923, and in other domestic exports, excepting molasses, satisfactory improvement was shown. Of these an increase in the value of trocas shell from £12,430 to £21,565 showed the greatest comparative rise.

Figures show that there has been a slight decrease in trade with the United Kingdom, the volume of trade being less in 1924 than during either of the two previous years by approximately 2 per cent. These figures cannot, however, be regarded as accurate, for the reason that cargoes of copra intended originally for sale at European ports may not necessarily be so disposed of, but may, subsequent to shipment, be sold in the English market. Imports, however, from the United Kingdom are satisfactorily maintained owing in part to direct steamship communication by which goods may be imported from the United Kingdom at rates of freight which do not exceed the rates charged in respect of goods carried between England and the Commonwealth of Australia.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES.

The main agricultural industries of the Colony have for long been the production of sugar, copra, and bananas. Of recent years the first has been hampered by difficulties in obtaining a sufficient labour supply, and by a great increase in the world's production. The second has suffered from a restricted market and a considerable fall in price, and the third both from the existence of plant disease and a protective Customs tariff in Australia. In these circumstances the development of new industries has appeared to be essential to the welfare of the Colony, and some success has attended the efforts made by Government towards that end.

RICE.

The new rice industry is becoming well established. In addition to the Government rice mill a small milling plant has been erected by a commercial firm at Suva.

The Government rice mill was in continuous operation from the beginning of the year until the end of June, when supplies of local paddy were exhausted. To meet the demand for rice for the balance of the year the Government imported 565 tons from Australia. During the year the mill disposed of 1,211 tons of rice, of which 900 tons were of local production, and 311 tons imported, the total value being £23,630. In addition paddy and by-products to the value of £468 were disposed of. The quantity of rice disposed of represents approximately 1,860 tons of paddy.

Accounts for the complete year's trading of the mill are not yet available, but the books disclose that at the end of June the net profit on six months' trading was £3,000. Owing to the shortage of paddy a loss of £1,000 is anticipated during the second half of the year.

In accordance with an undertaking to share profits with growers, who are almost entirely East Indians, a bonus of £1 per ton on the 1923 paddy crop was paid during the year, £1,160 being distributed.

The quantities of rice imported during the last three years were :—

1922	...	707 tons
1923	...	205 tons
1924	...	658 tons, including 565 tons imported by the Government owing to crop shortage.

Sales of local rice for these years were :—

1922	...	157 tons	...	...	value £3,800
1923	...	810 tons	...	...	value £15,200
1924	...	900 tons	...	...	value £17,380

Merchants and planters prefer locally-grown rice, and there is no doubt that had paddy stocks been available the whole of the quantity disposed of would have been of local production. This increasing demand for Fiji-grown rice indicates satisfaction with both quality and price. The export trade which was being established with neighbouring islands had to be abandoned owing to shortage of paddy, but no difficulty is anticipated in renewing the connections made when supplies permit of an export trade again being considered.

In addition to rice produced in mills, and to imports, the industry has established a considerable trade in rice between the Indian growers and their fellow countrymen, and store-keepers. Practically every grower retains part of his paddy crop, which is hand-milled and used for his own needs or disposed of to others. It is impossible to give a true estimate of the quantity thus disposed of, but it must be considerable.

Owing to drought during the planting season, a most unusual occurrence, the paddy crop was a very small one, only 600 tons being available for purchase by the mill. This will be milled early in 1925. Prospects for the 1925 crop are good and the quantity produced should be large.

The industry, which is capable of further development, is of considerable importance to this Colony with its large East Indian population. As a step towards further development the Government has established a small experimental area where imported heavy-bearing varieties of paddy will be tested and from which pure seed of proved quality and suitability will be distributed.

COTTON.

The cultivation of cotton was, at one time, one of the chief if not the principal industry of the Colony. The maximum export was in 1879 when 292 tons were exported. Owing to a fall in price, however, exports declined until 1900, when the cultivation of cotton ceased.

In 1922 the Government introduced seed of the "Sea Island" variety for distribution to intending growers, and during the following year approximately 101 bales containing 14¾ tons of lint were shipped to the United Kingdom for disposal, realising an average price of 2s. per lb.

The quantity exported in respect of the 1924 season was 180 bales containing 27¼ tons, an increase of 85 per cent. over export for the previous season.

Reports received from the British Cotton Growing Association and the purchasers speak highly of the quality of the cotton, and it is anticipated that, with the additional knowledge gained by the growers, the quality will be maintained or improved upon. It is interesting to record that of the 1923 crop, 10·5 per cent. was graded as first quality, while for the 1924 crop the percentage of first quality was 25·7.

The cultivation of cotton is almost entirely in the hands of East Indians who tend small areas. The seed cotton is collected by the Government, conveyed to the Government ginnery, ginned and baled, and is exported to the United Kingdom for sale. The Government makes advances on seed cotton supplied and meets all costs of ginning and marketing. When the proceeds are available, the advances made and cost of ginning and marketing are deducted therefrom, and any balance remaining is distributed amongst growers.

For the 1923 crop advances of 2d. and 1d. per lb. were made, and the final payments were 3d. and 1½d. per lb. for 1st and 2nd qualities respectively. During 1924 the advances were increased to 4d., 3d., 2d., and 1d. per lb. according to quality, and these rates have been guaranteed for the 1925 season as well.

Colonel G. Evans, Director of Cotton Culture, Queensland, visited the Colony at the request of the Government in August, and inspected most of the cotton areas, and his recommendations for the development of the industry are now receiving consideration.

PINEAPPLES.

As a result of the visit to Canada of the Colonial Treasurer during the early months of the year, it is the intention to embark on an experiment, in conjunction with the Dominion Canners, Limited, of Canada, in the growing and canning of pineapples. During the year a number of cases of pines were sent to Canada and were canned and returned to the Colony. The result of this minor experiment was such as to lead to the belief that Fiji pineapples should compare favourably with those of other countries which now supply the world's market.

Some thousands of cases of pineapples are exported annually to New Zealand. These, however, are grown in small plots, with little cultivation, by Indian settlers in the vicinity of Suva.

The varieties found in Fiji are the Ripley Queen and the smooth-leaved Cayenne. The former is a fine yellow-fleshed sweet pine, with a delightful flavour, which averages about 4 lb. in weight. The Cayenne is a larger pine now extensively used for canning purposes in Hawaii. This latter variety is being used in the experimental plots which are intended to supply the proposed cannery. The successful development of the scheme for the commercial cultivation of pineapples and the establishment of canning factories in Fiji will provide a new and an important industry in the Colony.

DAIRYING.

The dairying industry, having expanded beyond the experimental stage, continues to develop, and it may be said that the production of butter for local consumption practically equals the average quantity imported prior to the establishment of the factories. Imports of butter during 1924, which amounted to 24·02 tons valued at £4,615, were necessitated by exceptionally rainy weather extending over a considerable period. Owing to these rains, work on farms at the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Dairy Scheme at Tailevu was greatly hampered, and for some time pasturages were seriously affected. During the year a Committee of Legislative Council was appointed to enquire into the condition of affairs at the Tailevu Dairy Settlement, but as yet, owing to various circumstances, no report has been received. Notwithstanding, however, these adverse circumstances, the butter fat purchased by the factory from soldier settlers was more than 7 per cent. in excess of the amount so purchased during 1923, and the output of butter was increased by 29 per cent. The mill's profit on the working account for the year was £337 15*s*. 2*d*.

In August last another butter factory was opened at Rewa at a site 14 miles from Suva, which is easily accessible by motor vehicle or vessel and lies in the centre of fine pastoral lands. This factory, which was erected from funds advanced by the Government on loan, is conducted on a co-operative basis. Its output to the end of the year amounted to ten tons of butter, and the estimated output for 1925 is 28 tons.

At Navua, also, a proprietary company has commenced dairying and has acquired a large area of pastoral land already well cleared and roaded.

SAWMILLING AT NADARIVATU.

The establishment during 1924 of a new sawmilling company at Nadarivatu on the highlands in the interior of Vitilevu was, in view of the cost of imported timbers (£46,620), an important event, and the operations of the Company will be watched with interest. Apart from the possibility of developing an export trade in timber the possibilities of local trade alone should be an encouragement to this Company. An immediate effect of the utilisation of these highlands in connection with sawmilling operations should be an improvement of the means of access to the lands within the Company's sphere of activity, and it is possible that its successful operation may result indirectly in the permanent settlement of Europeans on the interior plateau of Vitilevu.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Prospecting operations have been carried on spasmodically during the past half-century, but no deposits of any metal have as yet been found to occur in payable quantities. Gold, silver and copper are the principal metals sought. Four prospecting licences and 22 miner's rights were issued during the year. No systematic geological or mineralogical survey of the Colony has been made, but the somewhat cursory examinations of the main islands made at different times by visiting scientists have fostered the hope that payable gold may yet be found. Sufficient has been done to demonstrate that there is much of geological interest to be found in the central districts of Vitilevu where the more ancient plutonic and sedimentary rocks are exposed.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Colony during 1924 was satisfactory. There were very few cases of dysentery and, apart from a localised epidemic at Nadi, very little typhoid fever. In the later months of the year influenza was prevalent throughout the Colony. It was of a mild type.

Infantile mortality, which is satisfactorily low among other races in the Colony, is still too high among Fijians.

The campaign against ankylostomiasis was continued during the year, and nine-tenths of the population have now received treatment. Marked improvement in general health has resulted. Examination shows that after the second treatment the number cured is 73 per cent. and that the infection remaining is slight.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital of 113 beds at Suva was completed during the year and has proved a great success.

The Lautoka Hospital of 46 beds for East Indians, serving a population of 35,000, was started during the year and will be completed in 1925.

Over 5,000 Fijians received salvarsan treatment for yaws.

Fourteen lepers were discharged from Makogai Asylum as all signs of active disease had been absent in each case for over two years.

By the appointment of three more Indian Sanitary Inspectors provision has been completed for some sanitary supervision of the whole population.

Vital Statistics.

The deaths during the year 1924 and the percentage of the respective class of population were as follows :—

Europeans, 42, being 1·47 per cent.
Fijians, 1,989, being 2·40 per cent.
Indians, 325, being ·59 per cent.
Others (excluding Rotumans), 42, being ·65 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans, 136, being 3·39 per cent.
Fijians, 3,015, being 3·5 per cent.
Indians, 2,280, being 3·48 per cent.
Others (excluding Rotumans), 139, being 2·16 per cent.

Nine hundred and seventy-nine marriages were registered, being at the rate of 0·58 of the population.

Crime.

The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts was 1,947, as compared with 2,220 for the previous year. Of the more serious crimes, two persons were convicted of murder, six of wounding, ten of sexual offences, and ten of burglary and housebreaking.

Native Affairs.

In the remote districts where little commercial development has taken place there is but slight modification in the old communal methods of native society. In the more commercially progressive areas a slow but definite change towards individualism is evident. Younger natives who have received a certain amount of education have constantly before them the example of a European social system, which leads some to secure exemption from communal obligations and support themselves on their own land without assistance from the community. Many leave their villages for varying periods to become wage-earners in industrial centres or on plantations. On their return to their villages many of these build iron-roofed houses, which, being more permanent than the native thatched house, give the owner more leisure to devote to individual pursuits. In some districts the old native standards are slowly being replaced by a money standard which, whatever its drawbacks, at least tends to fit the native to hold his own in competition with the East Indian and Chinese residents in the Colony. That he is willing to do so is demonstrated by the fact that a certain number of natives have engaged in the retail store trade, which until recently has remained exclusively in the hands of Europeans, Chinese and East Indians. Many are now engaged in the sugar mills and a considerable number earn their living as clerks, sailors, carpenters, boat builders, and domestic servants. The vast majority, however, remain agriculturists living in native villages and cultivating their tribal lands.

The chief agricultural products grown by natives are coconuts, bananas, yaqona, pineapples, and native foodstuffs, which consist chiefly of yams, dalo, breadfruit, tapioca, and kumalas, and are used mainly for home consumption. Practically all the bananas exported from the Colony are native grown. Unfortunately, the supply exceeds the demand and a fair proportion of native-grown fruit is unsaleable ; unless a new or an improved market can be found the cultivation of bananas by natives will decrease. Coconuts are used to a small extent to make coconut oil, but chiefly for the manufacture of copra. All native copra is sun-dried. Little care is taken in its manufacture, and in consequence its quality often leaves much to be desired. It is usually made in small quantities as occasion demands and sold to the local storekeeper. Although the total production is considerable, the individual plantations are too small to warrant the construction of drying kilns. So long as there is a ready market for this kind of native-made copra there is little hope of much improvement in its quality. The growing of sugar-cane is necessarily restricted to areas within reach of the mills, but the proportion of native-grown cane is increasing. In this industry the natives use more modern methods of cultivation ; some of them breeding their own horses and bullocks for that purpose.

The natives engage in fishing operations at irregular intervals and most of the tortoise shell, trocas shell, and bêche-de-mer is obtained by native fishermen. Bêche-de-mer and trocas shell are obtained from the outer coral reefs which are often some miles from the shore. Owing, perhaps, to the high cost of boats and the very small production of native canoes, the industry has not assumed large proportions.

The general health of the natives during the past year was satisfactory. No serious epidemic occurred and the number of cases of dysentery was almost negligible. Progress was maintained in the eradication of tertiary yaws and kindred diseases. The hookworm campaign conducted under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation was continued, chiefly by locally-trained native medical practitioners, who treated over 20,000 patients. There is no doubt that its effect is a general improvement in the physical welfare of the natives. The native medical practitioners, who exercise constant supervision over the health of the native in the country districts and some of whom are now in charge of provincial hospitals, treated over 21,000 cases of major and minor ailments during the year. The vaccination of native children was continued, over 1,400 being inoculated during the year. Many of the more serious cases were treated in the new Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, which, with its modern equipment and expert staff, is keenly appreciated by the natives.

Considerable progress was made in the improvement of native water supplies, especially in that covering the Rewa Delta, which, by means of over 56 miles of pipe line, now gives an adequate quantity of pure water to 66 villages. The effect of this work is noticed in the complete absence during the year of typhoid fever in this low-lying and swampy but populous area. A pipe supply was also carried to several towns at the mouth of the Sigatoka river, which, owing to the nature of the surrounding country, had previously relied on an uncertain rainfall.

Progress was maintained in improving educational facilities for the natives. A new provincial school was opened at Nadi and the construction of a new joint provincial boarding school for five provinces was well advanced. Manual instruction departments were added to three provincial schools, and selected pupils now receive instruction in carpentry and kindred subjects. Government grants to primary schools under the control of the various missions were increased and five more native schools were admitted to grants in aid. Two boys were selected by competitive examination from Nasinu School for a three years' course of training at Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, under the system of grants from public funds for that purpose. Two boys completed their training at Wanganui with considerable success and returned to the Colony to take up positions as teachers at Nasinu and Lau Provincial Schools. Much good work was done by the natives themselves in improving their district schools, and there is evidence of a keen interest being taken by the natives in the education of their children. A practical agricultural training establishment for natives is now being conducted by the Methodist Mission.

Much enthusiasm is shown by the natives in all forms of sport. At the invitation of the people of the Kingdom of Tonga, a native Rugby football team visited and played a series of matches against the Tongan team. They were most hospitably received and entertained and the most cordial relations were established and maintained throughout their stay. On their way to Tonga the members of the Fijian team were entertained by the people of Samoa and played a match against a representative team of Samoans. A football cup provided by the generosity of a commercial firm was competed for at Levuka by teams from various Provinces and was won by the Province of Naitasiri. The cup will be competed for annually and will be the means of fostering a sporting spirit among the natives from all parts of the Group.

A team of New Zealand cricketers visited the Colony and played a match against a native team from Bau. They were afterwards invited by the Chiefs to visit Bau, where they were entertained and a return match was played.

A considerable number of native boats competed in the annual regatta held at Levuka. A cup presented by the Acting Governor for the winning native-owned cutter was won by the "Totoya" boat, the owners of which retain the cup for one year. The annual competition for this cup will provide a stimulus to the natives in the proper care of their boats and in the art of seamanship in which they are naturally proficient.

At the annual native gymkhana held in the Province of Ra, keen competition took place for a cup presented by the Acting Governor for the best-kept horse.

The enthusiasm shown by natives for all kinds of sport offers a very healthy field for intercourse and friendly rivalry.

The celebration of the Colony's Jubilee of 50 years of British rule, held at Levuka, was attended by large numbers of natives from all parts of the Group. A large tabua (whale's tooth) presented on that occasion has been graciously accepted by His Majesty as a token of the loyalty and affection of his Fijian subjects.

Visits were paid by the Acting Governor to Lau, Taveuni, Nadi, Kadavu, and the Yasawa Group. In each district the Acting Governor received a loyal and enthusiastic welcome from the natives. The people of the Yasawa Group, which had never previously been visited by a Governor, were greatly delighted and keenly enjoyed visiting the Governor's yacht, the modern fittings of which filled them with amazement. The Acting Governor also visited the Leper Asylum at Makogai on Christmas Day and made presents to the inmates, who were deeply grateful to His Excellency.

Ratu Joni Mataitini was appointed during the year to succeed Ratu Pope Seniloli as a member of the Legislative Council.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinances No. 3 of 1912 and No. 8 of 1919, made reasonable progress with its work during the year 1924, but was somewhat handicapped by the absence of the chief native member of the Commission for the greater part of the year at the British Empire Exhibition, where he acted as Assistant Commissioner at the Fiji Pavilion. The Chairman of the Commission had also to devote a considerable portion of time assisting in editing the Handbook which was published in July to celebrate the Colony's Jubilee.

The native-owned lands of Fiji are held under statute by native Fijians according to their ancient native customs as evidenced by usage and tradition. The Native Lands Commission is instituted for investigating and ascertaining the respective ownership of all native lands in the Colony, and for their survey and registration. The Commission as at present constituted consists of a European officer, who is Chairman, three native chiefs of high birth and education, and a staff of specially trained native clerks.

The native Fijians are, speaking generally, divided into large tribal divisions, described as yavusa, which are respectively bound together by the tradition of common descent and known to the neighbouring tribes under a generic name. These tribes are each divided into landowning units of population, known as mataqali, which are further subdivided into smaller family divisions or tokatoka. Generally, the mataqali is the proprietary unit and the boundaries of their respective lands are as a rule well known to each other.

For the purpose of their enquiries the members of the Commission are vested with the powers of a Stipendiary Magistrate to summon and examine on oath native witnesses who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being enquired into, or any person likely to be interested in the title of the land. They are also required, when investigating the ownership of any land, to ascertain and record the name of any person who holds any customary title or office in respect of the land. All evidence is taken by the Commission in the Fijian language. Any native feeling aggrieved at any decision of the Commission has the right to appeal to the Governor in Council, provided that notice of intention to appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the finding of the Commission. If no notice of appeal is lodged the record of the Commission becomes conclusive and binding.

When ownership has been investigated and recorded by the Native Lands Commission the boundaries of the lands are surveyed by surveyors employed by the Government for this purpose. On the completion of the survey the boundary description and the names of the respective owners are recorded in the registers and deposited, together with copies of the plans, with the Registrar of Titles, who is charged by law with the duty of preserving the Registers with the same care as freehold titles. Copies of the Registers, in the Fijian language, as far as they affect each proprietary unit, are given to each for public use.

The cost of the survey is borne by the respective owners; it is computed in accordance with the scale of charges prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any landowning unit is unable to pay for the survey of its lands, he is empowered by law to make such an order as seems to him fit and just under the circumstances.

The provinces in which the investigations of the Commission have been completed are Nadroga, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Lomaiviti, Tailevu South, Naitasiri, and Rewa East. Portions of Macuata and Cakaudrove have also been investigated. In the province of Bua, Serua, and Tailevu North the tribal frontier boundaries have been laid down, and in the cases of Bua and Serua surveyed, ready for subdivision into mataqali holding.

During the year the Native Lands Commission surveyors surveyed 37,700 acres of mataqali holdings in the provinces of Macuata, Naitasiri, Lomaiviti, and Rewa. The work in the last-named province was difficult and survey operations had to be suspended from time to time on account of the abnormal rainfall.

The following shows the total acreage surveyed in the Colony up to the end of 1924:—

Mataqali	908,686
Tribal frontier boundaries to be further subdivided into mataqali holding ..	536,404
Total	1,445,090

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Indian population of the Colony now amounts to 65,000. That population is, for the most part, resident in Suva and the sugar centres of the Colony. It is in the main an agricultural population, though the numbers of Indians who are engaged in commercial pursuits tend to increase annually.

The number of independent Indian cane growers has increased. During the year approximately 2,500 Indian farmers sent cane to the sugar mills. These farmers produced nearly 220,000 tons of cane, of a value of £180,000.

The cane cultivation of the Colony tends to pass more and more into the hands of the Indian cultivator, and the price paid for this commodity ensures a sound economic return for the producer. The guaranteeing of prices by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for an extended period has given an impetus to cane production.

Rice cultivation is almost totally carried on by the Indian population. The Government rice mill purchased during the year from Indian cultivators 1,159 tons of paddy at a price of £6 10*s*. to £7 10*s*. per ton. It was also found possible during the year to distribute among growers from mill profits a bonus of £1 per ton of paddy supplied.

Cotton cultivation is also almost entirely in the hands of the Indian cultivator. During the year, 180 bales of cotton, containing 61,199 lb., were, as already stated, exported to the United Kingdom. This represents an increase of 85 per cent. over the previous year's operations of the industry. Advances on the crop to the amount of £2,694 were made to growers, and on the receipt of account sales it is anticipated that a further large sum will be available.

During the year £1,604 was also paid to growers in respect of the 1923 crop.

The Indians shared in the gradual improvement in the Colony's position, and the return of economic prosperity had its natural counterpart in an increased contentment of the people.

The visit of the Special Service Squadron was highly appreciated by the Indian population. A loyal address was presented to Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick L. Field, K.C.B., C.M.G., by representative Indians, and the opportunity of visiting the Fleet was gratefully accepted by the Indian community.

There has been considerable evidence during the year under review of a healthy increase in the civic sense of the community. An Indian Reform League has been instituted whose main aims are social. Under the auspices of the League, sports clubs are being founded and the Suva Municipal Council have allotted an area of Albert Park to the League's Cricket club.

The building by Government of the Indian Hospital at Lautoka marks a further advance in the general improvement of Indian conditions.

The Missions are devoting more and more attention to schemes of social amelioration, with the consequent reaction on the general life of the community. The demand for increased educational facilities is insistent and the general desire for improvement is apparent.

The s.s. "Sutlej," which was chartered to convey Indian repatriates, arrived in the Colony in December, bringing 125 passengers and 370 tons of general cargo from India. The vessel left Fiji on the 20th December for Calcutta with 1,022 souls on board. The repatriates took away from the Colony remittances to the amount of £20,221, and they carried with them jewellery of the declared value of £2,607.

The birth-rate has increased to 3·48 per cent., while the death-rate decreased to 0·59 per cent. Compared with the statistics of the other sections of the community, these figures are remarkable and are indicative of the general health of the Indian community.

Education.

The progress of education in Fiji has been closely associated with the Colony's administrative history, but prior to the date of Cession the two Missions had already made considerable progress. The Methodist Mission started in 1835 and the Catholic Mission in 1844, and the first necessity was to reduce the spoken dialects to a common written form. Hazlewood's dictionary was written in 1850, and in 1853 the New Testament was published in Fijian. Mission schools for Fijians were opened up in every district as soon as teachers were available. It is interesting to note that as far back as 1880 an Ordinance was passed for industrial schools for natives, and that under this Ordinance successful schools were conducted at Yanawai and Naikorokoro.

In 1890 the number of Europeans in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools for Europeans at Levuka and Suva. These schools were under the management of local School Boards. About this time, also, the Catholic Mission began schools in Suva for their European adherents.

The year 1916 worked a complete change in education. In that year the School Boards were abolished and the Board of Education was created. An Education Department was formed and Ordinances were passed to allow grants to be paid to primary and vernacular schools, and a registration Ordinance made compulsory the registration of all schools and teachers.

For the Fijian natives, Government schools at Nasinu and in several provinces have been opened so that boys from the Mission village schools may enter these Government schools in order to proceed through the elementary school grades and qualify for native official appointments or become native assistants in one or other of the numerous trades open to them. Several natives have been granted further education abroad with excellent results. At the present time it is felt that, while reasonably satisfactory facilities exist for primary education for Fijians, insufficient attention has perhaps been given to vocational education for Fijian youths after leaving the primary grades, and more attention will be given in the near future to industrial and agricultural instruction for senior pupils.

European education in the Colony has made considerable progress during the last few years. In order to ensure complete staffs for the three Government schools for European children, a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand has been made. By this means the teachers, who are all trained and certificated under one system, continue to use the New Zealand courses of instruction with suitable modifications for local candidates in Fiji. In addition, these teachers are visited and inspected annually by a New Zealand Inspector of Schools. Correspondence classes for children in country districts were commenced in 1924, and have already given good results, and, in brief, it may be stated that in proportion to the total number of European children of school age in the Colony (611 in 1921), the educational facilities both for town and country children are reasonably extensive, and the boarding fees are extremely low.

The complexity of the education problem in Fiji is increased by the numerous races now domiciled in the Islands. Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were dealing with problems of Fijian or European education, there were no

East Indians in the Colony. At present there are about 65,000 Indians resident in Fiji, and considerable attention has been given to their education.

In 1924 the expenditure on education was £27,103, as compared with £25,322 in 1923, £28,956 in 1922, £26,151 in 1921, £19,990 in 1920, and £14,185 in 1919.

The two schools established in 1917 in Suva had a roll of 206 in December, 1924 (Boys' Grammar School, 85; Girls' Grammar School, with mixed kindergarten, 121). There were 49 children from the country boarded in the Grammar Schools and Levuka Public School.

On the 31st December, 1924, there were 27 schools receiving grants-in-aid under the Primary Schools Regulations, and 25 under the Vernacular Schools Regulations. Of the latter, 19 are for Fijians and 6 for Indians.

It has not yet been possible to establish any Government-assisted training colleges, but the Davuilevu Institute of the Methodist Mission qualified for the pass grant under the supplementary regulations in connection with training schools in respect of eleven students who passed the teachers' qualifying examination. Two of the four Fijian students at Wanganui Technical College returned at the end of 1924, and two others will be sent early in 1925.

There were 20 passes out of the 43 candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1921, 17 passes out of 36 candidates in 1922, 34 passes out of 59 candidates in December, 1923, and 22 passes out of 31 candidates in 1924.

An Ordinance to make compulsory the registration of schools and teachers in the Colony was passed in 1918. Six hundred and six schools and 1,156 teachers have been registered up to the 31st December, 1924.

The native provinces have subscribed largely towards the cost of establishing four joint provincial schools for Fijian boys. It is intended that each school will board 60 to 70 pupils. Difficulties of obtaining suitable sites and building materials and of staffing have delayed the scheme. One of the four schools was opened in September, 1921, the second was built in 1922 and opened in January, 1923, and a third was opened in October, 1923.

There are now altogether 62 Government and assisted schools, 22 being for Indians, 31 for Fijians, 1 receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 8 for Europeans, other races and half-castes. They have 4,786 pupils, of whom 1,677 are Indians, 2,666 are Fijians, and 473 are Europeans, other races and half-castes. The staff consists of 59 European, 72 Fijian, and 45 Indian teachers. There are village schools in the great majority of native villages. These are supervised by native teachers, and instruction is given in the vernacular.

Finance.

The revenue for the year amounted to £484,834, or £4,852 more than the revenue for 1923.

Additional taxation in the form of a Residential Tax was imposed during the year and produced approximately £21,900.

The export duty on copra which was abolished during 1923 was reimposed from the beginning of 1924, but revenue from this source is earmarked for a specific service: the conducting of an intensive campaign against a plant disease which threatened to destroy the copra industry in the Colony.

The expenditure for the year was £451,070, or £21,404 more than the expenditure for 1923.

A comparison between the two years, 1923 and 1924, is as follows :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Surplus.*
	£	£	£
1923 ..	479,982	429,666	50,316
1924 ..	484,834	451,070	33,764

The Loan Debt of the Colony may be stated as follows :—

	£	
Public Works Loan	150,000	Short-term loans, advances and overdrafts for public works, etc., pending the raising of a long-term loan.
Returned Soldiers and Sailors Advances Loan.	11,200	
Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents.	553,185	
Local Overdrafts	968	
	£715,353	

The Legislature approved of the raising by means of a loan of an additional £100,000 for public works.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	318,397
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	72,896
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1924).	290,049
Depreciation Fund Investments ..	14,577
	£377,522
Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1924	£59,125

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1924 produced a net surplus of £10,269, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities and Discount on Remittances.		14,649
Expenses	1,850	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund. ..	2,530	4,380
Surplus		£10,269

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £5,029,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £461,656, and by the Bank of New Zealand £285,007.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 2,604 to 3,238, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £64,216 to £73,292. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £9,479 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1923.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1924, was £90,711, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1924).	93,266	
Cash awaiting investment ..	2,950	
		96,216
Surplus		£5,505

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1924 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment ..		4,189
Interest credited to Depositors	2,716	
Expenses	167	
		2,883
Surplus		£1,306

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports and exports of the past two years, excluding transhipment goods, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1923 ..	989,060	1,553,239	2,542,299
1924 ..	1,066,594	1,498,934	2,565,528

There is a preferential tariff in favour of the products and manufactures of the British Empire.

With a few exceptions, foreign goods subject to *ad valorem* rates pay 12½ per cent. higher rate of duty than British goods of the same description and those liable to specific rates of duty 100 per cent. higher.

The balance of trade of the Colony still remains satisfactory.

Of the total trade of the Colony during 1924, 63·31 per cent. was with British Possessions, chiefly Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and 11·32 per cent. with the United Kingdom. The balance of the total trade, i.e. 25·37 per cent., was chiefly with Europe and the United States of America. The total trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom fell from 13·30 per cent. in 1923 to 11·32 per cent. in 1924. That with British Possessions fell from 65·60 per cent. in 1923 to 63·31 per cent. in 1924, and that with foreign countries increased from 21·00 per cent. in 1923 to 25·37 per cent. in 1924. The increase of trade with foreign countries is accounted for by the fact that approximately 95 per cent. of the copra exported from the Colony went direct to foreign countries, principally Europe.

The principal items of export continue to be sugar, copra and bananas, the quantities and values of these products exported during each of the last two years being as follows :—

Year.	*Sugar.*		*Copra.*		*Bananas.*	
	Tons.	*Value.*	*Tons.*	*Value.*	*Bunches.*	*Value.*
		£		£		£
1924 ...	44,472	768,110	23,137	484,496	467,845	115,246
1923 ...	44,108	866,287	24,161	443,445	406,607	94,325

Other principal domestic exports were as follows :—

Article.		1924. *Quantity.*	1924. *Value.* £	1923. *Quantity.*	1923. *Value.* £
Coconuts ...	... No.	311,442	1,613	270,230	1,119
Bêche-de-mer	... Cwt.	459	1,896	428	1,844
Trocas Shell	... Tons	584	21,565	439	12,430
Rubber ...	... Cwt.	1,429	7,416	801	5,128
Molasses ...	... Tons	4,783	4,783	8,392	8,392

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported during 1924 was 44,472 tons, valued at £768,110, an increase of 364 tons exported as compared with the previous year. The Penang Sugar Company has again commenced planting operations, and, with a greater area under sugar-cane in the districts in which the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, operates, the quantity exported should show a marked increase in the near future.

Bananas.

The export of bananas during the year amounted to 467,845 bunches, valued at £115,246, as compared with 406,607 bunches exported in 1923, an increase of 61,238 bunches. The export of bananas has shown a gradual increase over the last three years, but a substantial increase cannot be expected unless additional markets are found. New Zealand is now practically the only country to which this fruit is exported, and although small shipments have been made to Australia it is feared that the heavy duty imposed in that country will prevent the resumption of trade to any extent.

Coconut Industry.

The quantity of copra exported during the year was 23,137 tons, a decrease of 1,024 tons exported as compared with the previous year. The destructive coconut leaf moth, *Levuana iridescens*, has not spread beyond the island of Ovalau, and the principal coconut areas are free of infection. The Government is taking energetic steps to combat this pest and it is anticipated that efficient natural enemies will shortly be obtained.

Rice.

The operations of the Government rice mill were continued during the year. The rice industry is referred to elsewhere in this report.

Trocas Shell.

The quantity of this shell exported was 584 tons, valued at £21,565. The principal market of trocas shell is in Japan, where the shell is made into buttons, which closely resemble mother-of-pearl.

Pineapples.

The export of fresh pineapples amounted to 4,768 cases, valued at £1,408. The Government is at present considering a proposal to undertake, in conjunction with the Dominion Canners, Limited, of Canada, the cultivation and canning of pineapples for export. The final details are now being considered and it is anticipated that planting will commence early in 1925.

Rubber.

The export of rubber increased from 89,753 lb., valued at £5,128, for 1923 to 159,995 lb., valued at £7,416, for the year under review.

Cotton.

The quantity of cotton prepared for export for the 1924 season was 180 bales, containing 61,199 lb., as compared with 33,072 lb. exported for the previous season. The cotton industry is referred to elsewhere in this report.

Biscuits.

The biscuit factory, erected in 1922, exported 334,365 lb. of biscuits, valued at £7,788, to neighbouring islands during the year.

Miscellaneous Exports.

The following products were exported during the year, in addition to the above :—Molasses, 4,783 tons, valued at £4,783 ; bêche-de-mer, 23 tons, valued at £1,896 ; hides, 3,844, valued at £2,941 ; turtle shell, 1,446 lb., valued at £1,313 ; oil, coconut, 74 tons, valued at £2,977.

Timber.

Many valuable timbers are found in Fiji. At present, however, the export of timber is limited, due mainly to the difficulties of internal transport. Several small mills provide sufficient timber for local use and for the manufacture of the cases in which bananas are exported. A company has recently been formed and the necessary plant erected to deal with a large area under timber in Colo North.

Cattle.

Cattle thrive well in all parts of Fiji. There are no serious endemic diseases affecting cattle, nor are there any infected ticks. Every precaution is taken by inspection and treatment of animals, both at the port of embarkation and at the port of arrival in the Colony, to guard against the introduction of diseases and pests from outside sources. A cattle dip is in course of construction at Suva, and all cattle from tick-infested countries will, in future, be required to be dipped prior to release from quarantine. " Stores " can best be raised in the dry zones, whereas the luxuriant state of the wetter zones is more suited for fattening purposes. Large areas of land suitable for raising cattle are available for leasing. The erection by a company of a meat-canning plant is at present being considered.

Dairying.

The dairy scheme for returned sailors and soldiers has proved that excellent butter can be produced in Fiji and considerable quantities are now placed on the local market. Samples of Fiji butter have been examined by dairying experts, who have pronounced it to be of first-class quality. Special reference to the development of the dairy industry has already been made.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner, 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. III, the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. 23 of 1916, which provides that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner shall pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council may issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually at an upset premium of £2 to cover cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. The lessee is called upon to arrange for the survey of the land in order that the lease may issue, but he may forthwith enter into occupation of the land.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1*d.* to 2*s.* per acre, coconut lands from 6*d.* to 5*s.*, hill land from 6*d.* to 2*s.*, banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s.* to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1924 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of Alienation.* *No. of Lots and Area Estimated.*		*Total Area.*
		Acres.	*No.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold	**1,573**	**528,106**	**1**	**1**	**528,107**
Leases of Crown Land	**197**	**17,284**	**119**	**4,776**	**22,060**
Leases of Native Land	**5,852**	**345,063**	**1,764**	**25,971**	**371,034**
					921,201

The total area of the Colony is 4,523,620 acres.

Climate.

The meteorological observations for 1924 show that the total rainfall recorded at Suva during the year was 168·80 inches, as against 109·33 inches in 1923 and 158·10 inches in 1922. This rainfall is 50·90 inches above the average. Rain fell on 250 days.

The greatest rainfall on any one day throughout the year was 9·12 inches on the 25th August.

Station.	*Total for* 1924. *inches.*	*Average Annual Rainfall to end of* 1924 (*in inches*).
Narovurovu, Ba	88·75	103·85
Rarawai, Ba	94·54	81·62
Waininu, Bua	168·02	149·28
Buca Bay	90·00	95·72
Rabi	114·34	147·13
Savu Savu Bay	132·42	103·92
Vuna, Taveuni	159·14	133·88
Waiyevo, Taveuni	119·47	101·18
Vunidawa, Colo East	162·21	140·63
Nadarivatu, Colo North	147·67	129·63
Tavua, Colo North	90·26	71·89
Munia, Lau	66·04	69·69
Lautoka, C.S.R. Co.	78·24	68·95
Levuka	127·68	92·19
Makogai	93·22	81·63
Labasa, Colonial Sugar Refining Co.	95·93	98·32
Nadi	67·54	64·20
Lawaqa, Nadroga	64·71	70·25
Suva	168·80	117·90
Navua	177·13	138·23
Nausori	148·95	114·47
Rotuma	155·74	135·82

The mean shade temperatures at Suva for the year were 71·3° F. minimum, 82·4° F. maximum. The average temperature for the year was 76·8° F. The highest temperature recorded was 93·2° F. on the 18th March, and the lowest was 62·1° F. on the 17th July. The hottest month was December, with an average temperature of 87·9° F. maximum and 71·6° F. minimum, and the coolest month was September, with an average of 77·7° F. maximum and 68·7° F. minimum.

Communications.

SHIPPING.

The nationalities of vessels visiting the Colony are shown in the following table :—

	1924.		1923.	
Nationality.	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
British	111	352,407	120	359,849
American	10	27,534	5	6,353
Swedish	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	7	23,642	5	19,340
French	1	3,420	1	4,427
Total	129	407,003	131	389,969

The number and tonnage of local vessels holding coasting licences were :—

	1924.		1923.	
Nationality.	*No.*	*Tons.*	*No.*	*Tons.*
European-owned vessels ..	71	2,424	75	2,682
Native-owned vessels ..	55	601	67	687
Other vessels..	24	230	23	212
Total	150	3,255	165	3,581

Regular steamer communication with Fiji is as follows :—

To and from Sydney, via Auckland, Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line of steamers, four-weekly.

To and from Sydney, A.U.S.N. Company's passenger steamer, four-weekly.

From Sydney, Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, cargo steamer, four-weekly.

To and from Vancouver, via Honolulu, Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, four-weekly.

From the United Kingdom, the New Zealand Shipping Company's cargo steamers, quarterly.

To the United Kingdom, Clan Line of cargo steamers, two-monthly.

ROADS.

The total length of metalled roads in the Colony is less than 100 miles, but with gravelled roads and certain unmetalled roads in the dry zone the total length of roads capable of being used by motor traffic in fine weather is about 230 miles. Of this length about 110 miles is unsuitable for motor traffic during the wet season.

Bridle tracks linking up native villages and isolated estates are interlaced across the principal islands.

Roads that have been proclaimed as public roads as prescribed by Ordinance 21 of 1914 are maintained at the expense of the general revenue. Bridle tracks connecting native villages are weeded and kept generally in fair order communally in accordance with arrangements included annually in programmes of work drawn up in pursuance of resolutions adopted in native provincial councils.

A sum of £29,365 was spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges during the year, and £9,018 on improvement works.

The first section of the Main Trunk Road, which ends at the village of Sawani and known as Princes Road, was completed and opened to traffic on the 15th October, 1924. The new work which is about 8 miles in length, cost £24,995 and, linking with the Sawani-Davuilevu and Davuilevu-Suva roads, affords a circular motor drive of 28 miles. A considerable amount of settlement by Indians is taking place along the new section and plantations of bananas, pineapples, yaqona, etc., are rapidly replacing the bush.

The continuation of the Main Trunk Road beyond the Waimanu River has been postponed for the present.

RIVERS.

There are only three rivers which are navigable for any distance except by small or native craft. The most important is the Rewa River, which forms the main channel of communication between Suva and the interior of Vitilevu. This river is kept free of obstacles by the Rewa River Board, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Government, and is navigable for a distance of 50 miles for light draught launches.

For some years past the eradication of water hyacinth in the main rivers, and more particularly the Rewa River, has involved some expense to the Government. Its rapid spread tending to choke streams used more particularly by natives, necessitated its being declared a noxious weed, and, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1919, the Governor-in-Council prescribed the steps to be taken by occupiers of land throughout the Colony for the eradication of the pest.

RAILWAYS.

There are no Government railways in the Colony, but the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have a narrow gauge railway extending from Tavua to Sigatoka, a distance of approximately 120 miles, over which, free of charge, passengers are carried on specified days.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Steamers of the following lines, namely, the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer, *Pioneer*, several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established under Government control.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

Legislation.

During the year, nineteen Ordinances were passed. The majority of the new laws consolidated existing legislation and were passed with a view to expediting the revision of the laws of the Colony.

Among the Ordinances enacted during the year, mention may be made of the following :—

> No. 1 transferred the administration of Indian estates from the Agent-General of Immigration to the Curator. It also granted powers of summary administration of small estates to the Curator.
>
> No. 5 transferred the administration of the Arms Ordinance to the Police.
>
> No. 12 provided for the registration of Imperial Letters Patent in the Colony.

D. R. STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

17*th April*, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	,,
1235	Straits Settlements	,,
1236	Seychelles	,,
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	State of Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1240	St. Lucia	,,
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	,,
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	,,
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923–1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	,,
1250	State of Brunei	,,
1251	St. Helena	,,
1252	Ashanti	1923–1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	,,
1255	Gold Coast	1923–1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924
1257	Nyasaland	,,
1258	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1299.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1214 (Price 1*s.*) and for Report for 1924
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No. 1299.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.*

Preface.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole group itself is situated midway between the Tongan or Friendly Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

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* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 848. (Cd. 7622–39).

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is provided a well-protected water-way

Historical.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the group " Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed " Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the " Duff," was nearly lost on the reef of Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save secondhand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the " Bounty," Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. " Province " in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig " Eliza," with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendency in the Kingdom of Bau, where

(23136) Wt. 7375/466 625 8/26 Harrow G.94.

he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the " Hunter " of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him, he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakabou adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions ; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette " Vandalia " arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakabou, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakabou induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakabou and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakabou, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakabou, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal Chiefs, in a deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, two other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the rate-payers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education, and is authorised to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 15 of 1923 provides for an improved Fire Brigade Service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a board of Fire Commissioners.

I. General.

The Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on the 25th April, prior to which date the Government was administered by Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

The year was marked by a considerable increase in trade and by general progress resulting in a decided improvement of the Colony's financial position. The entire absence of storms helped towards a record output of copra, and an unusally long period of dry weather had a beneficial effect on the crops of sugar cane.

An event of outstanding interest, and one which should influence beneficially the copra industry of the future, was the successful introduction from the Federated Malay States of parasites in connection with the campaign against the purple moth *Levuana iridescens* which attacks coconut trees on Vitilevu and several adjacent islands and renders them unproductive. As is pointed out in more detail later in this Report, the introduction of these parasites was followed by the successful distribution and establishment of colonies of them throughout the infected areas, and there is now a hope amongst persons actively interested in the coconut industry that the time may not be far distant when, for the greater part of its 400 miles of coast-line, Vitilevu will be capable of the economic production of copra. The steps which are now taken, not only to combat coconut diseases generally but to prevent their spread to islands where they do not now exist, for which purpose measures have been closely organised, have inspired a degree of confidence which has perhaps at times been noticeably absent in the past. The prospects of expansion of the sugar industry appear to be satisfactory. These also are controlled to a not inconsiderable extent by weather conditions, and the output of any one year depends largely on the equable distribution of the seasons. At present, owing to an unusually dry period supervening upon the planting season, it is anticipated that the cane crops to be reaped this year may be adversely affected. While the copra industry of the Colony is almost entirely in the hands of Europeans and Fijians, the cane industry tends to pass more and more into the hands of Indian growers. During the year, 752,978 tons of sugar-cane were crushed and yielded 98,046 tons of sugar.

In the areas adjacent to sugar areas but situated outside of them there has been encouraged the cultivation of cotton, and an increase in the area under cultivation may be anticipated. Hitherto this industry has been restricted to certain districts on the northern and western sides of Vitilevu, and only one ginnery has been in operation. It is proposed shortly to establish three more at different centres. The assistance which has been accorded to the Colony by both the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and the British Cotton Growing Association is likely to have a considerable influence on the production of cotton within the Colony. It is feared, however, that the prospects for the 1926–1927 season are not good, as owing to drought conditions it can only be expected that yields will be comparatively low. This industry is almost entirely in the hands of the Indian population, but there are indications in certain districts that Fijians are being attracted by the financial benefits which accrue to growers, and small areas were planted by them during the year.

The Colony suffered a severe loss during the year by the death on the 28th September of the Rev. A. J. Small, late Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission, who, for a period of 46 years, carried on missionary work among the Fijians.

A further loss was sustained by the death, on the 9th July, of Ratu J. A. Rabici, O.B.E., Roko Tui Cakaudrove, a native member of the Legislative Council. The late Ratu Rabici had served the Crown faithfully for twelve years as Roko Tui and was a wise and trusted Counsellor.

The health of the Colony generally was satisfactory during 1925, apart from an epidemic of typhoid fever in Suva in which there were 350 cases and 28 deaths. Whooping-cough and influenza were prevalent throughout the Colony, but there was very little dysentery and no other serious infectious disease.

Continued progress was made in the campaign against ankylostomiasis. This disease is no longer a prevalent cause of debility of the Indian population. Practically the whole population has received one treatment and those living in the wet districts, where it was formerly most prevalent, a second treatment.

The Makogai Leper Asylum received during the year patients from Samoa, New Zealand and Niue, and arrangements are complete to receive those from Tonga and the Cook Islands

Over 5,000 injections of salvarsan were given during the year, and secondary and tertiary yaws are steadily decreasing.

The Lautoka hospital with 46 beds for East Indians and nine for Europeans was opened towards the end of the year.

The vital statistics remain satisfactory except in so far as the death-rate of the Fijian population is concerned. The deaths during the year and the percentages of the respective classes of population were as follows :—

Europeans 37, being ·90 per cent. ; Fijians 2,012, being 2·2 per cent. ; Indians 494, being ·72 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 61, being ·86 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans 68, being 1·66 per cent. ; Fijians 2,856, being 3·22 per cent. ; Indians 2,258, being 3·31 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 169, being 2.46 per cent.

1,121 marriages were registered, being at the rate of ·066 of the population.

During the year, 2,437 persons arrived in the Colony and 2,457 departed. Arrivals and departures were almost all residents in the Colony. There was no repatriation steamer for Indians during the year, as it was not found possible to arrange a charter.

II. Finance.

Totals of Revenue and Expenditure for five years and excess of Liabilities over Assets at the end of each year were as follows :—

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Assets*	*Liabilities*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets*
	£	£	£	£	£
1921	569,723	752,039	426,010	589,286	163,276
1922	450,155	530,361	465,695	709,177	243,482
1923	479,982	429,666	565,467	758,632	193,165
1924	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515
1925	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453

The drop in Revenue during 1922 as compared with 1921 was due almost entirely to the slump in sugar and copra. The improvement during the years 1923 and 1924 was but slight; but in 1925 an upward movement is distinctly visible. The difference can be attributed chiefly to the marked increase in the amount received through the Customs as Import Tax or Port and Service Tax, and Port, Wharfage and Light dues. For this last the advent of the Oceanic Steamship Company, whose vessels now call at Suva, was mainly responsible.

The main changes in taxation were (a) the repeal of the Business Profits Tax Ordinance 1921, and (b) the reduction to 1¼ per cent. from 2½ per cent. of the Port and Service Tax introduced in 1923.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	355,199
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	72,896
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1925)	300,327
Depreciation Fund Investments	17,842
	£391,065

	£
Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1925 ..	35,866
Amount awaiting investment	17,735
	£53,601

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1925 produced a net surplus of £9,944, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities and Discount on Remittances	—	13,878
Expenses	1,091	—
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	2,843	3,934
Surplus		£9,944

As from December, 1925, a start was made to withdraw from circulation the old issue of Currency notes from 1909 onwards and replacing them by an issue similar in designs and denominations but on a better quality of paper.

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony is as under :—

	£
(a) Public Works Loan	150,000
(b) Returned Sailors and Soldiers Loan ..	10,050
(c) Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents	
(i) for Loan Works	357,157
(ii) for Current Purposes	123,843
	£641,050

Debentures to the value of £1,150 were redeemed during the year, and the indebtedness to the Crown Agents was reduced by £72,185.

BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £6,154,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,094,553, and by the Bank of New Zealand £272,286.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 3,238 to 4,004, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £73,292 to £96,104. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £22,812 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1924.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1925, was £116,788, as against which were held

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1925)	110,853	
Cash awaiting investment	8,101	118,954
Surplus		£2,166

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1925 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		4,885
Interest credited to Depositors	3,238	
Expenses	129	3,367
Surplus		£1,518

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III. Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to £3,427,392, which exceeds by £861,864 the total trade of the previous year. This is due to additional imports valued at £204,541 and additional exports, the value of which was £657,323. Exports of sugar exceed those of the previous year by 47,272 tons and in value by £603,157. Of the other main domestic exports, the value of copra, trocas shell and molasses showed satisfactory increases of £13,217, £14,161 and £3,500 respectively. It is mainly due to increased production in the sugar and copra industry that the value of exports, the product of the Colony, increased by 31·07 per cent. and the total trade by 25·04 per cent. but in each of the five main industries referred to above the progress made must be regarded as satisfactory. An analysis of the figures respecting the minor exports from the Colony shows the following increases :

	per cent.
Bêche-de-mer	38·93
Biscuits	11·53
Pineapples	61·59
Kauri gum	34·57
Rubber	117·31
Turtle shell	58·69
Fresh vegetables	18·89

It should, however, be stated that the very considerable increase in the value of rubber exported is due not to quantity (which in fact was slightly less than that exported during 1924) but to an enhanced market. As an indication of the direction of expansion of the Colony's trade, it is interesting to note that exports to the United Kingdom increased by 62·99 per cent. ; to Canada by 77·69 per cent. ; to New Zealand by 23·16 per cent. ; to the United States by 43·59 per cent. ; and to France by 77·17 per cent. Exports to Germany dropped in value 99·95 per cent., and to Australia by 20·30 per cent. Of the increased trade with the United Kingdom, £62,849 represents the increase in value of imports. The steady increase in the value of imports from the United Kingdom is satisfactory and is due to the direct effect of the preferential tariff and direct steamship communication between the United Kingdom and Fiji at rates of freight which do not exceed the rates current between the United Kingdom and Australia.

Of the total trade of the Colony during 1925, 68·43 per cent. was with British Possessions, principally New Zealand, Canada and Australia, and 11·36 per cent. with the United Kingdom. The total trade with the United Kingdom rose from 11·32 per cent. in 1924 to 11·36 per cent. in 1925. That with British Possessions rose from 63·31 per cent. to 68·43 per cent. and that with foreign countries fell from 25·37 per cent. to 20·15 per cent.

The balance of trade continues to be satisfactory, the excess of exports over imports being £885,122 in 1925 as against £432,340 in 1924.

The total imports and exports for the past two years are shown in the following table :—

	Imports	*Exports*	*Total trade*
Year	£	£	£
1924	1,066,594	1,498,934	2,565,528
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392

With a few exceptions, foreign goods subject to *ad valorem* rates pay 12½ per cent. higher rate of duty than British goods of the same description, and those liable to specific rates of duty 100 per cent. higher.

The quantities and values of the principal items of export during each of the last two years are as follows :—

Year.	*Sugar.*		*Copra.*		*Bananas.*	
	Tons	*Value.*	*Tons.*	*Value.*	*Bunches.*	*Value.*
		£		£		£
1925 ..	91,744	1,371,267	24,133	497,713	565,623	132,491
1924 ..	44,472	768,110	23,137	484,496	467,845	115,246

The quantity of sugar is the largest exported since 1917.

Copra shows an increase of approximately 1,000 tons. Local prices ranged between £19 and £22 per ton and the market prices in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe between £28 and £31 per ton. Of the total of 24,133 tons, 1,744 tons, valued at £37,804, were exported to the United Kingdom, 20,588 tons, valued at £424,923, to other parts of Europe, and 1,800 tons, valued at £34,986, to the United States of America. During the previous year no copra was exported to the United Kingdom.

The export of bananas again showed an increase over the quantity exported during the previous year. The industry, however, cannot be regarded as being in a satisfactory condition. The export of bananas has fallen from 517,595 cases in 1915 to 282,811 cases in 1925, a drop in quantity of 54·6 per cent. representing a loss in income of approximately £126,000. In order to make up for this loss it would be necessary to increase exports by 235,000 cases a year, or by approximately 20,000 cases a month, and to find a market in which to dispose of such quantities.

The main reason for the decline in the export of bananas from the Colony lies in the import duty imposed upon Fiji fruit entering the Commonwealth of Australia. For the purpose of developing the industry and increasing exports it would appear that Fiji must look to New Zealand for further development of the trade and more particularly to the South Island of that Dominion. It is interesting to note that during the past ten years the consumption of Fiji bananas in New Zealand has grown from 189,210 cases to 282,567 cases, and the year 1925 was that in which the greatest quantity of fruit was exported to the Dominion.

Other main domestic exports were as follows :

	1925.		1924.	
Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Coconuts ..	243,340	1,420	311,442	1,613
Bêche-de-mer ..,	671 cwt.	3,105	459 cwt.	1,896
Trocas shell ..	576 tons	35,726	584 tons	21,565
Rubber	145,213 lb.	16,116	159,995 lb.	7,416
Molasses ..	8,283 tons	8,283	4,783 tons	4,783
Pineapples ..	9,779 cases	3,665	4,768 cases	1,408

AGRICULTURE.

During the year the staff of the Agricultural Department was increased by an additional Veterinary Officer and an Analytical Chemist, and for the first complete year the Department had the benefit of the services of a Mycologist. Much research work was commenced by the scientific officers of the Department. Agriculturally, however, the main feature of the year was the progress made in connection with the Levuana campaign, to which reference has already been made.

Coconuts.—The greatest enemy of the coconut palm in Fiji is the purple moth known as *Levuana iridescens*, the existence of which largely precludes any great expansion of the Colony's output of copra. Much progress has been made in the campaign at present being conducted with a view to control of this pest. Intensive studies of the insect have been instituted and information obtained as to the nature of the outbreaks, the habits of the insect between outbreaks on the so-called " carry-over " trees, and the natural checks against the insect already in the Colony, such as food pressure, pupal mortality at the peak of an outbreak, predaceous spiders and predaceous bugs.

It has been found that the insect can be controlled mechanically by spraying with a mixture of two to three pounds of arsenate of lead (dry) with forty gallons of fresh or sea water without injury to the palms. A Fitz Henry Guptill spraying machine was purchased and given a thorough trial. It was found practicable to spray the tallest palms from the ground at a distance of two thousand feet from the engine at a reasonable cost. This has provided a much-needed weapon that can be used particularly in case of outbreaks developing in new territory, such as Vanualevu or Taveuni.

A queenless colony of the green tree ant *Oecophylla smaragdina* was obtained from Australia and experimented with. As the worker ants did not take enthusiastically to *Levuana* larvae, it was decided not to introduce the species.

Some insectivorous birds were obtained from Ceylon and India, and these are under observation in an aviary at the present time. The species are the Drongo, the Toddy Bird, and the Dyall or Magpie Robin. It has been shown already that the moths exhibit the distasteful property known to occur in many *Zygaenidae*. Larvae are being tested, as also are the several injurious coconut insects of Fiji likely to be fed upon by birds.

As the closest-known relatives of *Levuana* occur in New Guinea a search has been made with a view to the discovery either of *Levuana* itself or of close allies, and this search has revealed four species all closer to *Levuana* than *Brachartona catoxantha*, and from these a reservoir of parasites may be anticipated that would be more likely to attack *Levuana* than would the parasites of *Brachartona* which have already been introduced. As it is known that at least three of the *Brachartona* parasites attack *Levuana*, the position seems to be satisfactory. If the *Brachartona* parasites prove to be inadequate, further suitable parasites should be found in all probability in New Guinea.

Of the *Brachartona* parasites a single female *Mesostenus* was obtained from the Federated Malay States. She oviposited in *Levuana* and a generation of males was produced. The species died out for lack of females but has been proved a useful check against *Levuana*.

The beetle *Callimerus arcufer* was obtained from the Federated Malay States in considerable numbers and has since been bred up in the Insectory on *Levuana*. Several colonies have been established but the species breeds slowly and is not expected to become generally established for some years.

The Tachinid fly *Ptychomyia remota* was also obtained from the Federated Malay States. From the initial 300 landed 30,000 have since been liberated as forty colonies. This fly is doing extremely well and is now completely distributed throughout more than half of the *Levuana* infected parts of the Colony. A parasitism of 70 per cent. of the host larvae is quite usual; 80 per cent. is not infrequent; and occasionally it has been found as high as 90 per cent. This fly alone is certain to improve the *Levuana* situation, but exactly what measure of control it will effect cannot be forecasted with any certainty.

Bananas.—During the year the disease of bananas was the subject of investigation by the Government Mycologist who recently visited Australia with a view to comparing local diseases with those existing in Queensland. The disease mainly affecting bananas in certain parts of Fiji is known generally as the " Sigatoka " disease, which was first introduced in the Sigatoka Valley in 1913. The expression is no longer in official use, it having been definitely concluded that whatever meaning could be applied to the name during the epidemic of 1913 it is applied generally to conditions of fruit and leaves which may be caused by any or all of several different agents.

In regard to banana plantations it cannot be said that any general improvement has taken place. The task of cleaning up abandoned plantations and enforcing the provision of the Regulations made under the Plant Diseases Ordinance has not yet been commenced in a definitely organised manner. It is considered that this is the first step to be taken in controlling the various ills which affect bananas in Fiji. A further essential to the control of fungus diseases is a simultaneous campaign against the banana weevil which at present is probably responsible for more deterioration of plantations than any other single cause. A close investigation into the diseases of bananas is proceeding.

Cotton.—The Department of Agriculture continued during the year to control directly the handling of the cotton industry. Climatic conditions resulted in a reduction from 61,199 lb. of lint in 1924 to 48,083 lb. in 1925. The decrease in quantity, however, was offset by a great improvement in quality, approximately 70 per cent. of the crop being graded as first-class and valued in England at 35d. per lb. The percentage of " A " grade for the last three years has been :—

	per cent.
1923	10·5
1924	25·7
1925	69·05

The marked advance in quality is gratifying and is attributable to improved methods of cultivation and greater care in harvesting exercised by growers, the majority of whom are East Indians. The Department purchases all seed cotton and makes advance payments at the following rates : 4d. for " A " grade, 3d. for " B " grade, 2d. for " C " grade and 1d. for " D " grade, these rates being guaranteed until the end of the year 1927. Ginning and marketing is done by the Department, and when returns are available, the advances made and costs of ginning and marketing are deducted and the balance remaining is distributed *pro rata* to growers. In spite of the low yield during 1925, growers are optimistic as to the future of cotton and a considerably increased area has been planted. The cropable area planted is estimated to be at least 1,500 acres, from which this year is expected a return of 130,000 lb. of lint. The Sea Island variety of cotton, so eminently suited to these islands, is the only variety permitted for general planting, and steps are taken to preserve the true Sea Island type and to avoid hybridisation by establishing seed selection experimental plots under the supervision of an experienced officer kindly loaned for temporary service in Fiji by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. It is proposed to test other varieties in isolated places with a view to the selection of a suitable type to replace " Sea Island " in the event of a slump in the demand for the latter variety.

Rice.—The rice milling industry continued to justify itself and is an important factor in providing the staple food for the large East Indian population at a reasonable price.

Supplies of paddy to the Government Rice Mill were insufficient to keep it in continuous operation throughout the year and a proportion of imported rice was necessary to meet the requirements of local consumers.

During the year the mill disposed of 1,100 tons of rice, of which 745 tons were local production, the total value being £21,360. By-products sold amounted to £870.

The accounts for the year ended 30th June show for the complete year's trading a credit of £1,300, which was mainly distributed as a bonus to growers.

Importations of rice for the last four years were :—

Year	Tons
1922	707
1923	205
1924	658
1925	149

Sales of local rice for these years were :—

Year	Tons
1922	157
1923	810
1924	900
1925	745

The quality of the local rice is maintained at a high grade and is preferred to the imported rice. Enquiries from various quarters, since samples have been exhibited, indicate that a considerable export trade would result if supplies of paddy be increased to meet requirements. Efforts are being made to stimulate production.

The trade in hand-milled rice between the Indian grower and his fellow countrymen, storekeepers, and planters, has grown considerably and the failure, or partial failure, of the paddy crop is reflected in an increased demand through the mill for locally milled and imported rice. Drought conditions synchronising with the planting months marred the crop prospects for the coming season and heavy importations will be necessary to meet demands especially as the drought has also affected detrimentally other food crops.

The testing of several varieties of seed was continued, but it is not the intention to distribute such seed until final and definite results have been obtained.

A Committee has been appointed to enquire into the possibilities of further increasing the utility of the Mill, and the results of their deliberations will be available in the coming year.

Pineapples.—The experiment in conjunction with the Dominion Canners, Limited, in the growing and canning of pineapples has been advanced a stage. A considerable area has been planted by the Department, and the fruit from this in sufficient quantity to warrant the erection of the cannery will be available next year. The Dominion Canners, Limited, propose therefore to erect the necessary plant to complete the experiment in time to deal with the 1926 crop.

Samples from the experimental plots, which have been built up from seed plants procured locally, have demonstrated that no difficulty will be encountered in producing suitable fruit for canning purposes.

As already indicated, there was a considerable increase in the number of cases of pineapples exported to New Zealand during 1925.

DAIRYING.

This industry has continued to develop and the production locally now exceeds local demand. The three established factories have each increased their output considerably, and tentative efforts to find an export market for surplus production have met with some little success. The industry may be said to be firmly established and local demands can now be fully met.

CATTLE.

Stock conditions, except with regard to dairying, have not advanced considerably, but much work is being carried out by an increased Veterinary Staff towards their improvement. The construction of a meat-canning plant is well advanced on the island of Vitilevu, and the commencement of its operations should mark a decided advance in the cattle industry.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown Grants for land on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission were issued. In this manner, 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown Grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year, by Ordinance No. III,* the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed Ordinance No. XXIII of 1916,* which provided that, on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner should pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor in Council could issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

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* NOTE.—Ordinances No. III of 1912 and No. XXIII of 1916 are now incorporated in Ordinance No. I of 1905.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually of an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fee by the Lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1925 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation. No. of Lots and area estimated.*		*Total Area.*
		Acres.	*No.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold	1,574	528,116	7	3,238	531,354
Leases of Crown Land	214	17,517	125	2,902	20,419
Leases of Native Land	5,655	347,592	1,946	24,422	372,014
					923,787

The approximate total area of the Colony is 4,523,620 acres.

LANDS AND SURVEY.

There was a marked reduction in the number of applications for new leases of Crown and native lands during 1925 compared with the figures for 1924. This reduction was probably due, in part, to the operation of the new regulations requiring deposit of survey fees by lessees within six months of the approval of a lease, thus confining applications to those who were financially able to conform thereto. The projected departure of an Indian repatriation vessel early in 1926 was also a contributing factor, and it is apparent from the increase in the number of transfers of native leases approved that many who would have been applicants for new leases secured existing holdings from departing lessees.

Five hundred and fifty-seven applications for leases of native lands aggregating 8,249 acres were received, and of these 338 applications for 4,550 acres were approved and 119 applications for 2,084 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 84 per cent. of the total.

Forty-five applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 1,389 acres. Of these, 30 applications for 332 acres were approved and 11 for 204 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration increased from 906 in 1924 to 982 in 1925. Five hundred and eighty-one plans of surveys of Native and Crown leases were examined and passed during the year, being an increase of 320 on the figures for 1924.

The new regulations governing the approval and survey of Native leases, made in 1924, by placing control of surveys in the hands of the Government, have brought about a very satisfactory change in the position regarding the surveys of Native leases, the number of lease plans received in the first year of operation of the regulations being 2½ times as many as in the previous year under the old system.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Prospecting operations have been carried on spasmodically during the past half century, but no deposits of any metal have as yet been found to occur in payable quantities. Gold, silver and copper are the principal metals sought. Fifteen prospecting licences and 31 miner's rights were issued during the year, but no application was received for a Mining Lease, as would be necessary in the event of any mineral being found in payable quantities. No systematic geological or mineralogical survey of the Colony has been made, but the somewhat cursory examinations of the main islands made at different times by visiting scientists have fostered the hope that payable gold may yet be found. Sufficient has been done to demonstrate that there is much of geological interest to be found in the central districts of Vitilevu where the more ancient plutonic and sedimentary rocks are exposed.

TIMBER.

Progress in the establishment of a saw mill at Nadarivatu on the highlands in the interior of Vitilevu has been retarded owing to the difficulties in transport of the sawn timber to the coast having been under-estimated by the operators. Trial surveys are being made by the Company concerned for the purpose of locating a tramway grade down the escarpment to the coast, and financial assistance has been sought by the Company from the Government for the construction of a tram-line on a route and grade which would be suitable also for road purposes. A concession embracing an area of approximately 88,000 acres in the peninsula forming the south-east side of Natewa Bay, Island of Vanualevu, was approved, and milling machinery has recently been imported for working the area.

A Queensland firm of sawmillers applied for a concession covering some 200,000 acres on the north side of Vanualevu island, but consideration by the Government was deferred in order that, in view of the increasing interest displayed in the

Colony's forest resources, a Forest Officer might be obtained to report on the forests of the Colony and the best means to adopt for their conservation and economic exploitation.

IV.—Legislation.

During the year twenty-three Ordinances were passed. With the exceptions mentioned below all the new laws were small amending measures of domestic interest. Special mention, however, might be made of the Pure Food Ordinance, and the repeal of the existing Business Profits Tax. A revised edition of the Ordinances was published during the year. The last revision took place twenty years ago. The new edition consists of three volumes, two of the law and the third a chronological table and index.

V. Educational Progress.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Catholic Missions. These two Missions commenced their religious work in 1835 and 1844 respectively, and their foremost educational work was to reduce the numerous spoken dialects to a standard written form, and the beginnings of native education were made by Hazlewood's dictionary printed in 1850, and a Fijian translation of the New Testament published in 1853. Mission schools were opened in every district as soon as teachers were available, and a measure of simple education was given along with the spread of Christianity among the natives.

In 1880, six years after the Cession, an industrial school for Fijians was commenced at Yanawai and by 1890 the number of Europeans in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools for European pupils in Suva and Levuka. About this time, also, the Catholic Mission began schools in Suva for their European adherents.

The above simple beginnings in education were gradually extended until in 1916 a complete system of education was made possible by the creation of an Education Department. The former School Boards were replaced by a Board of Education with School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to both primary and vernacular schools for all races. In addition the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

Since 1916, progress in education has been comparatively rapid. At the present time there are facilities both in town and country for all European pupils. Government and Catholic Schools in Suva and Levuka and country schools at the four principal sugar centres provide accommodation for all the

European pupils in these districts, and children in isolated places may be enrolled in the Government Scheme of Correspondence Classes. The three Government Schools for Europeans are conducted under a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand, and the system of education adopted in these schools is practically the same as that in the Dominion. About one-quarter of the total number of pupils on the roll in Suva are boarders for whom boarding fees ranging from £40–£50 per annum are paid.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Nearly every village has a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may become enrolled in one of the eight Assisted Primary Schools or one of the six Government Provincial Schools. From these latter schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which he may receive a higher education. For the selected few there are Government Scholarships enabling them to continue their studies abroad.

Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were dealing with problems of Fijian and European education, there were no East Indians in the Colony. Now there are approximately 65,000 Indians resident in Fiji. In 1925 there were one Government, eighteen Assisted Primary, six Assisted Vernacular and about twenty private schools for Indians. Several proposals for increased educational facilities for Indian pupils are at present under discussion.

There are now altogether 66 Government and Assisted Schools, 22 being for Indians, 33 for Fijians, 3 receiving both Indians and Fijians, 8 for Europeans and persons of mixed European descent. They have 5,182 pupils, of whom 1,676 are Indians, 2,935 are Fijians, and 571 are Europeans and others. The staffs consist of 58 European, 89 Fijian, and 42 Indian teachers.

Under the Registration of Schools and Teachers' Ordinance of 1918 there were up to 31st December, 1925, 626 schools and 1,204 teachers registered in the Colony. The majority of schools are village schools for Fijians supervised by native teachers who give instruction in the vernacular.

The annual expenditure on education which was about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915 amounted to £26,151 in 1921, £28,956 in 1922, £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, and £30,039 in 1925.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered: Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency, and Public Service Entrance Examinations: New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations and Degree or Diploma Examinations.

VI. Climate.

Air temperature in the shade.—The mean maximum temperature for the year was 82·7, and mean minimum 70·6. The highest recorded was 91·0 on February 6th, and the lowest 59·8 on July 3rd.

Humidity.—The mean amount of relative humidity was 77·9 per cent., the greatest amount recorded being 99 per cent. on September 12th, and the least 54 per cent. on August 30th.

The following table gives the mean temperature, and the highest and lowest percentage of humidity for each month of the year.

	Temperatures (in shade)					*Humidity 100-saturation.*			
	Monthly mean.	*Highest.*	*Days of month.*	*Lowest.*	*Days of month.*	*Greatest. per cent.*	*Days of month.*	*Least. per cent.*	*Days of month.*
January	79·7	90·1	29th & 31st	68·5	3rd & 5th	91	8th	62	4th
February	80·4	91·0	6th	69·6	27th	92	8th	69	3rd
March	80·5	90·2	4th	71·0	1st, 2nd & 9th	91	20th	58	25th
April..	79·5	90·8	19th	71·2	26th & 30th	91	7th & 14th	70	25th
May	78·1	85·9	9th	68·7	28th	91	8th & 21st	62	19th
June	73·2	83·2	4th	62·6	29th & 30th	91	15th	62	19th
July	71·4	82·3	31st	59·8	3rd	93	9th	62	12th
August	72·3	87·2	13th	62·2	26th	92	2nd	54	30th
September	74·8	86·4	8th	62·5	6th	99	12th	58	20th
October	74·9	86·2	21st	65·3	31st	93	3rd & 4th	60	31st
November	76·2	86·2	25th	67·6	7th	94	6th	59	18th
December	79·2	86·8	23rd	64·0	22nd	98	23rd	62	27th

Rainfall.—Rain fell on 217 days during the year with a total fall of 106·66 inches. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 5·84 inches on September 11th.

Pressure.—The mean pressure, reduced to 32° F., and mean sea-level for the year was 29·950; the highest recorded being 30·139 on August 17th, and the lowest 29·663 on February 7th. The following table gives the mean pressures for each month of the year and also date of occurrence.

Month.	*Monthly means.*	*Highest recorded.*	*Date.*	*Lowest recorded.*	*Date.*
January.. ..	29·855	29·975	24th	29·769	16th
February ..	29·859	29·993	16th	29·663	7th
March	29·827	29·935	27th	29·741	13th
April	29·924	30·071	27th	29·799	3rd
May	29·956	30·079	23rd	29·778	5th
June	30·017	30·105	21st	29·789	30th
July	29·977	30·113	27th	29·798	1st
August	30·017	30·139	17th	29·921	13th
September ..	30·050	30·123	5th & 24th	29·931	2nd
October ..	30·004	30·100	30th	29·877	1st
November ..	30·012	30·117	2nd & 4th	29·896	22nd
December ..	29·902	29·996	4th	29·818	19th

Winds.—The trade winds were exceptionally light and unreliable during the season. The directions of the winds at observation time, 8.30 a.m. (local standard time), during the year were as follows: north 10, north-east 24, east 98, south-east 69, south 11, south-west 11, west 5, north-west 7 and calms 123. There were seven days on which no observations were taken. During the months of November and December no northerly winds were recorded, which is a remarkable fact, as during these two months, particularly the latter, northerly winds are usually very prevalent: a condition which is regarded as a good omen during the hurricane season for the reason that where these winds meet the cold southerly winds to the south of the Group disturbances are formed in that vicinity and travel to the southward or away from the Group. In spite, however, of the absence of northerlies during these two months no depressions worth mentioning were experienced. The centre of a hurricane, however, passed to the north of Apia, Samoa, travelling approximately E.S.E. on the 1st January, 1926, doing considerable damage in that Group.

Thunder-storms.—Twenty-one thunder-storms were recorded during the year, all but two having occurred during the first five months; the months of November and December, when thunder-storms are usually very frequent, were marked by their entire absence.

VII. Communications.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Oceanic Steamship Company convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, San Francisco, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer, "Pioneer," several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established by Government.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

D. R. STEWART.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Suva.

7th May, 1926.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1342.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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No. 1342.

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Preface.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west, and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About eighty islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole Group itself is situated midway between the Tongan, or Friendly, Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

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The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet) and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is provided a well-protected water-way.

HISTORICAL.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator, Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the Group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden", which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel, the "Duff," was nearly lost on the reef of Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save secondhand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the "Bounty," Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. "Province" in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig "Eliza," with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel the " Hunter " of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the good will of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions ; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette " Vandalia " arrived at Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the Islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased to three; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorised to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a board of Fire Commissioners.

I. General.

The Colony suffered a severe loss by the sudden death on the 17th of May of Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had administered the Government prior to the arrival in Fiji in April, 1925, of the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G.

While the year was noticeable for a decrease in the total trade of the Colony, the improvement in the Colony's financial position was more than maintained. The unusually long period of dry weather noticeable in 1925 was repeated in greater degree in 1926, and for a time conditions almost amounting to a drought prevailed on the leeward side of Vitilevu. The increased percentage of sugar obtained from the cane failed to compensate for the retarded growth of the crop, and the consequent decrease in the amount of sugar extracted entirely accounts for the decrease in the total of exports. Imports, however, increased considerably.

Agriculture, referred to in greater detail in the report under its appropriate head, continues to be the economic backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the most important crop, after which come coconuts, bananas, cotton, pine-apples, and rice. Dairying and cattle-breeding are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, whereas cotton, pine-apples, and dairying are recent innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having rapidly to diversify its agricultural products.

The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Levuana iridescens*, continues to meet with success, and has restored confidence among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites, the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely, and while no final statement can yet be made it is considered possible that sufficient parasites have now been colonised to bring about a permanent control of the pest. In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign would also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the Southern Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence.

Another event of some importance is the decision to erect a central building for the Agricultural Department and for the bacteriological work of the Medical Department. This building will do much towards co-ordinating the agricultural work, of such vital importance in this Colony.

Fiji, during the year, was represented at the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition, held at Logan Park, Dunedin, at which the Colony was allotted some 3,000 feet of space.

The Court was erected of native Kauri felled in the mountains of Vitilevu. The timber was shipped to New Zealand in the rough, and there dressed and made into panelling.

The central feature of the Court was a native pavilion which was constructed entirely of materials sent from Fiji. It was erected by six natives of the province of Lau and two natives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, who were sent to the Exhibition as Court attendants. It was built entirely without the use of nails, the parts being fastened with ornamental lashings of different coloured " sinnet " (coconut fibre cord) worked into ancient conventional designs.

From time to time, in the evenings, the native attendants gave concerts in the pavilion, at which they sang folk-songs of the Pacific. These concerts were frequently broadcasted through New Zealand.

The main industries of the Colony were well represented. One of the principal exhibits was that of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, at which the process of the manufacture of sugar, from the cane to the various grades of manufactured sugar, was shown. Other exhibits included copra, rice, cotton, leaf tobacco, maize, areca nuts, ginger, groundnuts, cocoa, tea, coffee-beans, guava jelly, bêche-de-mer, coconut oil, arrowroot, trochas and pearl shell, showing the process of manufacture into buttons, tortoise shell and articles manufactured therefrom, candle nuts, including the extracted oil, and a variety of essential oils. A comparatively new industry in the Colony, that of biscuit making, was also represented. Regular shipments of such tropical fruits as bananas, pine-apples, limes, melons, etc., were sent to the Exhibition and were displayed and sold at the Fiji Court.

A large variety of articles of native manufacture were exhibited, such as mats, baskets, fans, coloured bark cloths, etc.

The Board of Awards awarded 8 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 1 special diploma of merit for exhibits at the Fiji Court.

The Fiji Court at the Exhibition created considerable interest, and it is confidently hoped that closer communication, both in travel and in trade, between New Zealand and Fiji will be the result.

The Colony was represented at the Exhibition by the Honourable R. Boyd, Chairman, Native Lands Commission, as special Commissioner, and subsequently His Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on him, in recognition of his public services, the Order of an Officer of the British Empire (Civil Division).

The increase in the tourist traffic is of importance. The number of passengers arriving at all Fiji ports from overseas in 1925 was 2,437, and in 1926 this figure was increased to 3,722. Deducting twenty per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,000 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of 1,300 over the figure for 1925.

This steady growth in the tourist traffic is due to increased shipping facilities, the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, the opening of a bowling green, and other increased facilities for sport in Suva, and the issue of advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local tourist bureau.

After an interval of sixteen years, the Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural and Industrial Show had been revived in 1925. The Show held in 1926 created increased interest. The number of entries received from exhibitors in 1926 was 383 more than the total received in the previous year, and amounted to 1,364. Over 4,000 persons visited the Show, and all classes and races were represented among visitors and exhibitors. The holding of this Annual Show has proved of considerable benefit to the Colony. The exhibits of cattle were of particularly high quality and the importation of high-grade pedigree stock has admittedly been stimulated by the holding of this event.

The health of the Colony during 1926 was satisfactory. There was no serious outbreak of disease during the year except an epidemic of dropsy in November and December. This was confined to East Indians and was thought to be due to a toxic constituent of the mustard oil, which is regarded by the Indians settled in Fiji as an essential part of their diet.

Tuberculosis and typhoid fever were the most prevalent communicable diseases. Over seven thousand inoculations with typhoid vaccine were performed.

Students from the Gilbert Islands and from Samoa were admitted to the Native Medical School at Suva Hospital, and consideration was given to a scheme to enlarge the School so as to provide accommodation for twenty students from the Western Pacific groups.

A scheme is under consideration to establish at Suva a Central Medical School for the training of natives from all the Pacific Islands to be Native Medical Practitioners, and it is intended to employ these, when qualified, in the various groups to which they belong, to combat the various diseases which exist in the island groups and against which in the past it has been impossible to wage an efficient campaign on account of the shortage of skilled medical officers and the difficulties of communication. This scheme is being liberally supported by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Forty-one patients from Samoa, the Cook Islands, and New Zealand were admitted to the Makogai Leper Asylum under the agreement existing with the Government of the Dominion. There were 301 patients in the asylum at the end of the year, of whom 70 were from the above-mentioned countries.

A Pacific Health Conference was held in Melbourne in December. It was resolved, *inter alia,* to take steps to assimilate the precautions to be taken by the Administrations of the Pacific groups of islands for the prevention of the admission of epidemic diseases into the Pacific islands and for the Government of each group in which any serious epidemic disease might arise to give immediate notification of the outbreak to the other Administrations.

The vital statistics remain satisfactory except in so far as the death-rate of the Fijian population is concerned. The deaths during the year and the percentages of the respective classes of population were as follows :—

Europeans 32, being ·93 per cent. ; Fijians 2,965, being 2·3 per cent. ; Indians 563, being ·82 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 81, being 1·14 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans 76, being 1·81 per cent. ; Fijians 3,035, being 3·39 per cent. ; Indians 2,244, being 3·26 per cent. ; others, excluding Rotumans, 178, being 2·51 per cent.

1,002 marriages were registered, being at the rate of ·58 per cent. of the population.

Among public works completed, of more than local interest, an item of importance was the enlargement of the Government slip at Suva. During 1926 the cradle of the slip was extended 40 feet at a cost of £500, which work now enables vessels of the following maximum size to be slipped :—Length 200 feet, dead weight 900 tons, draft forward 4 feet, draft aft 12 feet.

II. Finance.

Totals of Revenue and Expenditure for five years, and excess of Liabilities over Assets at the end of each year, were as follows :—

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Assets*	*Liabilities*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets*
	£	£	£	£	£
1922	450,155	530,361	465,695	709,177	243,482
1923	479,982	429,666	565,467	758,632	193,165
1924	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515
1925	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453
1926	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression, as indicated in the trade statistics and also in the foregoing table, is due, firstly, to drastic retrenchment, secondly, to the revival of the sugar industry, and thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied, only a slight increase thereof having been introduced, yet not only have very considerable surpluses of revenue been obtained during the last four years but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which most directly affect the future welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The excess of Liabilities over Assets was reduced from £243,482 at the end of 1922 to £35,017 at the end of 1926—an improvement of £208,465 in four years. The small excess of Liabilities over Assets still remaining is far more than counterbalanced by permanent capital works carried out on Revenue Account. The cost of these may possibly be transferred to Loan Account, which, adjusting the position as between Loan Account and Revenue Account, would leave a material surplus of Assets over Liabilities.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	364,999
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	73,096
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1926)	343,784
Depreciation Fund Investments	21,383
	£438,263
	£
Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1926 ..	73,264

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1926 produced a net surplus of £12,865, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		16,326
Expenses	341	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,120	3,461
Surplus		£12,865

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony is as under :—

	£
(a) Public Works Loan	144,750
(b) Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Loan ..	8,800
(c) Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents : —	
(i) for Loan Works	395,263
(ii) for Current Purposes	95,483
	£644,296

Debentures to the value of £6,500 were redeemed during the year, and the indebtedness to the Crown Agents was increased by £9,746.

BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £6,000,000, while that of the latter is £6,154,988. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,119,101, and by the Bank of New Zealand £279,921.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 4,004, to 5,197, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £96,104 to £136,417. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £20,052 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1925.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1926, was £136,840, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1926)	137,398	
Cash awaiting investment	10,842	148,240
Surplus		£11,400

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1926 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		5,484
Interest credited to Depositors	3,788	
Expenses	174	3,962
Surplus		£1,522

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III. Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

TRADE.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to £3,221,372 in 1926, of which the value of imports was £1,480,945 and of exports £1,740,427. The value of imports exceeded that of 1925 by £209,810, but exports decreased by £415,830.

Although the balance of trade is not as high as in 1925, in which year the value of exports exceeded that of imports by £432,340, yet the trade for 1926 must be considered satisfactory with a balance of £259,482.

The figures for the years 1925 and 1926 are as follows :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1925 ..	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926 ..	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372

The following return shows the value of imports from the principal countries during 1925 and 1926 :—

Country.	1925.	1926.
	£	£
Australia	576,260	607,171
United Kingdom ..	332,080	444,047
New Zealand	117,413	142,225
United States	143,089	123,574
Canada	42,128	59,633
India	25,423	48,161
Japan	13,314	30,067

It is to be noted that, while the import trade from the United Kingdom and British Possessions has shown a satisfactory increase in each case, the total of imports from foreign countries has slightly decreased. The proportion of the import trade with the United Kingdom was 29·99 per cent., with British Possessions 59·15 per cent. and with foreign countries 10·86 per cent., as against 26·15 per cent., 60·65 per cent., and 13·20 per cent. respectively in 1925.

The increase in the value of imports from the United Kingdom during late years is due to the effect of the direct steamship communication between the United Kingdom and Fiji and of the Preferential Tariff. The tariff provides for a 12½ per cent. higher rate of duty on foreign goods which are subject to *ad valorem* rates of duty than on British goods of like description, and a 100 per cent. higher duty on those subject to specific rates of duty. The term " British goods " includes goods produced or manufactured within the British Empire.

The following return shows the principal exports of the Colony for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

Article.	1925.	1926.
Sugar, tons	91,744	56,991
Copra, tons	24,133	27,868
Molasses, tons	8,283	7,374
Bananas, bunches ..	565,623	564,397
Rubber, lb.	145,213	233,990
Gum, cwt.	980	1,511
Shell, turtle, lb. ..	. 2,412	3,385
Trocas shell, cwt. ..	11,520	7,560
Bêche-de-mer, cwt. ..	671	885
Biscuits, lb.	482,146	453,397
Butter, cwt.	213	525
Cotton, lb.	7,612	190,243
Oil, coconut, tons ..	132	91
Fruit, fresh, other ..	£6,041	£6,579
Vegetables, fresh ..	£3,171	£4,958

As will be seen from the foregoing, the main industries of the Colony are the production and export of sugar, copra, and bananas. Of these articles there were exported in 1926 the following quantities :—sugar 56,991 tons, copra 27,868 tons, bananas 564,397 bunches, of a value of £808,195, £573,475, and £138,040 respectively. As compared with the figures for 1925, sugar shows a falling-off of 34,753 tons. This was due to unfavourable weather conditions during the middle of the year, retarding the growth of cane. On the other hand, copra shows an increase of 3,735 tons, which was due partly to a carry-over from 1925 and to the fact that a number of additional coconut areas came into bearing during the year. The banana export trade is limited to New Zealand markets, and until further markets can be found no increase may be expected.

Of the other articles appearing in the return, items of interest are rubber and cotton. The world's market price of rubber during the last few years has enabled rubber plantations to be once again worked at a profit. The majority of the rubber was exported to the United States of America. The increase shown in the quantity of cotton exported is accounted for largely by a heavy carry-over of the 1925 crop.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

The year 1926 was marked by a phenomenal drought that had the effect of increasing the percentage of sugar in sugar-cane and of decreasing to varying extents the yield of copra, rice, cotton, and pine-apples.

The year was also marked by dull markets for copra and cotton. Despite the difficulties, however, agriculture in the Colony has held its own, and in one or two directions conspicuous advances have been made.

The Levuana Campaign.

Once again interest has largely centred in this campaign. A Zygaenid moth named *Levuana iridescens* has been in the Colony for at least sixty years, and wherever it has occurred has prevented the commercial production of copra. Until about five years ago it had been confined to the main island of Vitilevu and to certain small islands close by. When, however, the insect suddenly spread to Ovalau and an associated group of islands, and by successive defoliations prevented the production of copra valued at approximately £10,000 per annum, alarm was felt that with the strategic port of Levuka affected the insect might spread further afield to Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group, which together produce copra valued at approximately £500,000 annually. If the campaign proves to be completely successful, it will have the effect of restoring the copra production of Ovalau and nearby islands, of safeguarding from what appeared to be impending disaster the copra industry of the Colony, and of opening up for copra production the island of Vitilevu, with a coast line of roughly four hundred miles.

During the year the campaign has been marked by the rapid multiplication and diffusion of a Tachinid or two-winged parasitic fly named *Ptychomyia remota* throughout the infested territory, this fly having been previously introduced with the greatest difficulty from the Federated Malay States. By the close of 1926 this fly has brought about so great a change as to permit the hope that it may lead to the complete control of *Levuana*. The introduction of further parasites that have been discovered in Java, by an entomologist attached to the campaign, has therefore been held in abeyance. Now that *Levuana* has become a rare insect *Ptychomyia* will have to depend for maintenance largely upon other hosts, and it remains to be seen whether these secondary hosts are sufficiently plentiful and widely distributed to keep it up to a numerical strength adequate to deal with new outbreaks of *Levuana*.

Measures to Combat Coconut Scale.

Advantage was taken of the extended visit to Java of an entomologist attached to the Levuana Campaign, to study and bring to Fiji some of the natural enemies of *Aspidiotus destructor* occuring in that country, and not already present in Fiji. The shipment arrived at the end of the year and no statement as to results can yet be made except that, as the vessel had to go into lengthy quarantine on account of smallpox, some of the parasite cargo was lost and that at least one Coccinellid beetle, not as yet identified, shows promise of being a valuable aid in the control of the scale.

Copra Exports.

The following table shows that the quantity of copra exported is increasing, this being due partly to new areas coming into bearing :—

	Tons.
1922	21,987
1923	24,161
1924	23,137
1925	24,133
1926	27,868

Bananas.

During the year the Australian embargo against Fiji bananas on account of what has been called " Sigatoka disease," has been removed as a result of the Government Mycologist proving that this disease is identical with the Leaf Spot disease of Queensland.

The tariff maintained by Australia against Fijian bananas will continue, however, to prevent any considerable export to that country. Banana exports are chiefly to New Zealand, and for the past five years have been :—

	Bunches.
1922	358,122
1923	406,607
1924	467,845
1925	565,623
1926	564,397

Cotton.

The revival of cotton-growing dates from 1923 and has been confined so far to the Sea Island variety. During the year a record crop has been produced which proved of great value to East Indians, particularly in the Sigatoka River district where other crops failed on account of the drought.

Machinery was imported for ginneries to be erected at Sigatoka and Ra, on Vitilevu, and at a site to be selected on Vanualevu, but on account of the dull market it was considered advisable to proceed only with the ginnery at the first-named place. This was completed at the end of the year, and is a three-gin plant powered by suction gas and has adequate storage facilities for all cotton likely to be produced during the next few years.

A vital need has been met in the establishment in the Sigatoka district of a cotton experimental station, with a competent specialist in charge. The work at this station will consist largely of improving the variety of Sea Island cotton grown and of testing other varieties that may have a wider market than the Sea Island variety and that may provide the opportunity for a greater expansion in cotton-growing than can be anticipated at present from Sea Island cotton alone. Meade, Pima, a kidney cotton from New Guinea, Peruvian, and some hybrids are at present under test, in addition to a number of pure line selections of Sea Island.

The Government pays an advance of 4d., 3d., 2d., or 1d. per lb. of seed cotton, according to grade, and has paid out approximately £16,000 on the crop, this representing an average payment of 2·98d. per lb.

Production since the revival of the industry has been :—

		Bales of lint of approximately 350 *lb.*
1923		101
1924		180
1925		136
1926	(Estimated at)	925

Pine-apples.

The experiment conducted jointly between the Government and Canadian Canners, Limited, in growing and canning smooth Cayenne pine-apples has advanced considerably, although the drought was responsible for reducing the available quantity of fruit from the estimated 500 tons to 125 tons. The amount given was sufficient, however, for the essential purpose of testing the more important markets and of arriving at a reasonably close estimate of the f.o.b. cost of the canned product at Suva. The quality of the product has been pronounced excellent and at least fully equal to best Hawaiian, and the cost has been sufficiently low to induce the Canadian Company to extend the experiment for another year and to agree to planting up another 30 acres of pine-apples, which will not come into bearing until about November, 1928.

The experimental cannery was established in Suva, and managed by an expert sent by the Company from Canada. The output was 3,686 cases, each of two dozen tins, and has been disposed of in Canada, New Zealand, and locally.

Dairying.

The three butter factories have operated successfully during the year, and in each case there has been a slight increase in production. The local demand for butter has been satisfied, and 525 cwt. were exported as against 213 cwt. in the previous year, when butter was exported for the first time.

The industry is young in this Colony and has had to contend with many difficulties, such as those connected with the transport of cream and butter, and the provision of cold storage facilities both at the factories and in Suva and on the vessel plying between Suva and New Zealand.

The task of rapidly building up good dairy herds has not been an easy one. Many of these difficulties are in the process of being met, and the industry is becoming more stable. In spite of the difficulties much of the butter for export has been accepted as first-grade on arrival at its destination, and the butter on the local market is generally excellent.

Meat Cannery.

Through private enterprise a meat cannery has been nearly completed on the Tova estate. The building is a substantial one of reinforced concrete and steel and is equipped with a modern plant including tin-making apparatus. When this factory comes into operation it is likely to provide a much-needed outlet for the surplus cattle to be found in many parts of the Colony.

Rice.

For the rice year ending 30th June, 1926, 713 tons of paddy were purchased by the Government and milled or sold, the rice recovered amounting to 480 tons. In addition, 1,226 tons of rice were imported. The total sales of rice by the Government rice mill amounted to 1,657 tons, valued at £34,387. The extraction of rice from paddy was 69·3 per cent., which is a record for the mill.

The net profit for the year was £2,550 2s., and the net profit since 1922, after paying interest, sinking fund, rent, etc., and a bonus to growers of over £1,000, is £2,517 18s. 2d.

Cane Sugar.

The drought had the effect of reducing the tonnage of sugar-cane hauled to the mills, but as it also caused an increase in the percentage of cane-sugar the quantity of sugar produced was up to average. Planting operations were affected adversely by the drought, and considerable replanting had to be done.

It is a matter for gratification that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has expressed its continued faith in the Colony by purchasing the mill and properties of the Penang Sugar Company and two adjacent properties known as the Ellington and Yaqara estates.

Sugar exports for the last five years have been :—

	Cwt.
1922	1,434,620
1923	882,160
1924	889,440
1925	1,834,880
1926	1,139,820

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912 Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to 99 years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed an Ordinance which provided that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner should pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council could issue a lease renewal on reassessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually of an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fee by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1926:—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.* *No. of Lots and area estimated.*		*Total Area.*
		Acres.	*No.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold	1,583	531,305	4	330	531,635
Leases of Crown Land	248	17,994	87	2,085	20,079
Leases of Native Land	6,259	353,980	1,047	25,603	379,583
				Acres	931,297

The approximate total area of the Colony is 4,523,620 acres.

Four hundred and seventy-four applications for leases of native lands aggregating 16,776 acres were received during the year. Of these, 257 applications, for 3,110 acres, were approved and 101 applications, for 10,883 acres, were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 82 per cent. of the total.

Fifty-six applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 13,864 acres. Of these, 28 applications, for 220 acres, were approved and 20, for 2,548 acres, were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands, sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration, increased from 982 in 1925 to 1,643 in 1926.

SURVEY.

The working of the Survey Regulations instituted in 1924 has resulted in a further satisfactory reduction of outstanding surveys and expedition of new work. Seven hundred and forty-five plans were examined and passed, as compared with five hundred and eighty-one during the corresponding period of 1925.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Mining is still confined to prospecting operations only, as no mineral deposits have yet been discovered which have proved to be payable for working on a commercial basis. Only two prospecting licences, for an aggregate area of 900 acres, were issued during the year. Fifteen prospecting licences remained in force at the end of the year, and twenty new Miner's Rights and two renewals were issued during the twelve months. A few ounces of alluvial gold have been obtained by one prospecting party from certain small streams in the hills, but the existence of the ore body, constituting the source from which the gold was originally eroded, has not been proved.

TIMBER.

Increased activity has been evident in the timber industry An additional concession in respect of an estimated area of 3,600 acres of native-owned forest was approved in March, bringing the total number of concessions which have hitherto received consideration and approval by the Governor in Council up to eight, covering an aggregate estimated area of about 413,800 acres. Only one of the concessions, that held by the Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company over 15,700 acres at Nadarivatu, Vitilevu, is in respect of Crown forest. The output of sawn timber by this Company is still retarded owing to the difficulties of transport of the timber to the coast. The cost of a special tramway down the escarpment to the coast was found to be excessive, and effort is now concentrated on improvements to the existing roadway in order to enable transport of sawn timber to be effected by motor trucks.

The Pacific Timbers, Limited, a branch of the Brisbane Timbers Limited, of Queensland, was engaged during the latter part of the year in the establishment of a new sawmill on the Dreketi river, on the north coast of the island of Vanualevu. This Company holds, by transfer, two concessions aggregating an estimated area of 257,000 acres.

Messrs. J. T. Tuck and Sons of New Zealand have recently established a sawmill at Buca Bay, on the south-eastern coast of the island of Vanualevu, to work the firm's concession over an estimated area of 77,000 acres.

There are in all nine established sawmills in the Colony, mostly of small capacity and limiting operations to the supply of soft-wood lumber for the manufacture of packing cases for the export of fruit.

The total output of all mills for the year 1926, in accordance with figures supplied by the operators, was 4,353,844 superficial feet, almost the whole of which was absorbed by local requirements. The export of timber for the year was only 31,689 superficial feet, valued at £448 ; Canada taking 29,216 feet and Tonga 1,498 feet.

No surveys have as yet been made of the forest lands of the Colony, but a recent estimate prepared by the Conservator of Forests shows an area of 2,317,000 acres of rain forests and 49,000 acres of mangrove forest. A large proportion of the forest area may eventually prove to be unworkable for commercial purposes owing to the rugged nature of the country. Most of the forest lands are owned by the natives, and no reasonable estimate of the area owned by the Crown can be made until such time as the Native Lands Commission survey of tribal boundaries more nearly approaches its completion.

Arrangements were made during the year, by the courtesy of the Government of Sarawak, for the services of an expert Forestry Officer to be put at the disposal of the Government to investigate and report on the timber resources of the Colony. Mr. J. P. Mead, Conservator of Forests, Sarawak, arrived on the 30th December and is now engaged on his investigations.

IV. Legislation.

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1926. These for the most part were small amending measures of purely domestic interest, but special mention should be made of the following :—

No. 1. The Sea Carriage of Goods Ordinance, which repeals the Sea Carriage of Goods Ordinance 1906 and brings the law in the Colony on this subject up to date.

No. 19. The Drugs and Poisons Ordinance, which is a consolidation of the laws of the Colony dealing with the sale of drugs and poisons, opium, and Indian hemp, and introduces new matter to give effect to the changes necessitated by the Colony's adherence to the Protocol and Final Act of the Second Opium Conference held at Geneva in 1924-1925.

No. 20. The Government Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance, by which the Bank is made self-supporting and its control transferred from the Treasury to the Postal Department, a step made advisable and possible by the gratifying expansion of the Bank.

No. 21. The Traffic Ordinance, which consolidates the law relating to vehicles and traffic generally, vests control of traffic in the Inspector-General of Constabulary solely instead of, as previously, partly in the Municipal Councils and partly in the Government. It will, with the regulations made thereunder, provide up-to-date methods of dealing with the large and rapidly increasing amount of motor traffic in the Colony.

V. Education.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all practically interested in education: Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian School Committees.

Mission schools for Fijians exist in nearly every district, and Mission and private schools for Indians are being opened in districts where Indians reside.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an industrial school at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematise the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education with School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and masters was made compulsory.

At the present time educational facilities are provided both in the towns and in the country districts for all European pupils. Government and Roman Catholic schools exist in Suva and Levuka, and these, together with the country schools at the four principal sugar centres, provide accommodation for the majority of the European children of school age in the Colony, while European children in isolated places may be enrolled in the Government scheme of correspondence classes. There are three Government schools for European pupils, and these schools are conducted under a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand so that the system of education adopted is practically the same as that in the Dominion. About one quarter of the total number of pupils on the roll at the grammar schools in Suva are boarders, the boarding fees in respect of each pupil ranging from £40–£50 per annum.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Nearly every village has a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may become enrolled in one of the eight assisted primary schools or in one of the six Government provincial schools. From these latter schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government Scholarships enabling them to continue their studies abroad.

Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were commencing to deal with problems of Fijian and European education, there were no East Indians in the Colony. Now there are approximately 67,000 Indians resident in Fiji. In 1926 there were one Government school, nineteen assisted primary, six assisted vernacular and about twenty private schools for Indians.

During 1926 an Education Commission was appointed and submitted its report. The chief recommendations made were (*a*) a reorganization of the Education Department, (*b*) a system of teacher training, (*c*) facilities for technical and vocational training, (*d*) creation of educational districts for Indian pupils, and (*e*) education facilities for native and Indian girls. The comprehensive report of this Education Commission has been published, and contains many interesting appendices.

There are now altogether 69 Government and assisted schools, 23 being for Indians, 36 for Fijians, 4 receiving both Indians and Fijians, and 6 for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent. They are attended by 5,610 pupils, of whom 1,661 are Indians, 3,436 Fijians, and 523 Europeans and others. The staffs consist of 33 European, 73 Fijian, and 45 Indian teachers.

Under the Registration of Schools and Teachers' Ordinance of 1918 there were 636 schools and 1,304 teachers registered in the Colony up to 31st December, 1926. The majority of schools are village schools for Fijians supervised by native teachers who give instruction in the vernacular.

The annual expenditure on education which was about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915 amounted to £28,956 in 1922, £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, and £31,584 in 1926.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered: Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency, and Public Service Entrance Examinations: New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations and Degree and Diploma Examinations; London University examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree examinations; Australian examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

VI. Native Affairs.

The Honourable I. McOwan, formerly His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul in Tonga, was appointed Secretary for Native Affairs on the 9th July, 1926. On the death of the Honourable

T. E. Fell, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, Mr. McOwan assumed charge of the Secretariat of the Colony, including that dealing with Native Affairs. This arrangement continued up to the end of the year.

No new Native Regulations or amendments of existing ones were made during 1926, and the system of native administration generally speaking remained unchanged.

The Great Council of Chiefs was convened on the 7th September and opened by the Governor in person. The usual ancient and picturesque native ceremonies were performed at the opening of the Council. The Council carried on its deliberations for ten days under the presidency of the Secretary for Native Affairs. Among other resolutions the following were passed and received the approval of the Governor: (*a*) that Ratu Joni Mataitini, Native Lands Commissioner, and Ratu Deve Toganivalu, Roko Tui Bua, be the native representatives in the Legislative Council during the next sessions; (*b*) that the amount of £750, as a contribution towards payment of the expenses of a Forestry Officer to be imported for the purpose of making a report on the timber resources of the Colony, be taken from the accrued revenues derived from lands found by the Native Lands Commission to have been vacant at Cession; and (*c*) that natives of all provinces be invited to join in a collection of a sum of money to be devoted to the benefit of native Fijian returned soldiers.

During the past year the Colony was not affected by any serious epidemic, and on the 31st December the vital statistics showed an increase of close on 1,000 in the Fijian population. It is a source of deep gratification to the Administration that the Fijian race has increased by 4,957 since the 1921 Census.

Natives retain a large share of self-government. Powers are conferred on their District and Provincial Councils, constituted under Native Regulation No. III of 1912, to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, for the good government and welfare of their respective districts and provinces.

The Native Affairs Ordinance provides for a Native Regulation Board consisting of the Governor, two members of the Legislative Council, and such other persons, European and native, as the Governor may nominate. This Board has powers to make regulations dealing with the marriage and divorce of natives, succession to property, the jurisdiction and powers of native courts and native magistrates in matters of civil and criminal procedure, and also such other matters as affect the well-being and good government of the native Fijian population.

District Courts are held by Native Stipendiary Magistrates, whose jurisdiction is limited to adjudge minor infringements of the Native Regulations. Right of appeal lies to the Provincial Court of the province in which the offence was committed. All graver breaches of the Native Regulations are dealt with by the

Provincial Courts, at each of which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate preside. Appeals from Provincial Courts in their primary jurisdiction are decided by the Supreme Court of the Colony.

During the year the Governor visited the provinces of Lomaiviti, Lautoka, Ba, Nadi, Macuata, and Cakaudrove. On all these occasions the native Fijians performed the customary ceremonies of respect and loyalty.

The great majority of the Fijian population is engaged in agriculture, cultivating their tribal lands on which they plant various food crops necessary for their maintenance. Their food mainly consists of yams, sweet potatoes, taro, tapioca, and similar root crops. In addition to this they have permanent groves of coconuts, breadfruit, plantains, Tahitian chestnuts, etc. They are the main cultivators of bananas for export, and much of the copra exported from the Colony is produced by Fijians.

Fijians receive their first steps in education at the village schools, which are under the management of the religious bodies operating in the Colony. The Government has established six provincial boarding schools, which are under the supervision of European headmasters assisted by a trained staff of native teachers. Fijians contribute an education rate towards the upkeep of these schools. In addition to the provincial schools there is the Queen Victoria High School, established in 1906. It supplies higher education for selected pupils and has produced excellent results. To provide for the extended training of Fijians, a scheme is now in force whereby scholarships are granted to enable promising young Fijians to be sent outside the Colony for special education. Attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, there is a Medical School where native Fijian students are trained in the practice of medicine.

Supplementing the Government institutions the Missionary Bodies in the Colony have several excellent schools and training colleges whose curricula include branches of technical education. Grants-in-aid are made to these by the Government.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or sub-division of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they may think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors specially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand ; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands ; and to the 31st December, 1926, close on £13,000 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission made good progress during 1926 and completed investigations in the provinces of Colo East, Colo North, and the Yasawa group of islands. Registration of all documents in respect of the province of Ra—one of the largest provinces in the Colony, covering more than a quarter of a million acres—was effected and copies of records in the Fijian language sent out for delivery to the native owners.

During the year the surveyors attached to the Commission operated in the provinces of Rewa, Naitasiri, and Macuata. The total area of land surveyed during the twelve months was 41,542 acres.

VII. Indian Affairs.

The Indians in Fiji form a healthy, prosperous, contented, and rapidly-increasing community. At the census of 1921 they numbered 60,634, as compared with a total Fijian population of 84,475. Since that date and up to the end of 1926 it is estimated that the Fijian population has increased by approximately 5,000, and the Indian population by 8,100. The two races are about equally prolific, the birth-rate for Indians in 1926 being at the rate of 3·26 per cent. as compared with the rate of 3·39 per cent. among Fijians. The death-rate in the year for the former race was ·82 per cent., comparing with a rate of 2·3 per cent. for Fijians, and this sufficiently accounts for the more rapid increase of the Indian population.

The Fiji-born Indian possesses a superior physique to that of his immigrant parents. He exhibits a greater intelligence and demands a more advanced standard of living.

A lesser number of Indians are content to work as labourers under agreement on the plantations, and their places are being taken by Fijians in increasing numbers.

While the majority continue to adopt agriculture as a means of livelihood, cultivating, as independent smallholders, sugar-cane, rice, cotton, and maize, the increasing educational facilities provided for Indians are producing a class which seeks clerical employment, particularly in the Civil Service.

There is no bitter communal feeling between Mohammedan and Hindu ; caste distinctions are disregarded, and the problem of " untouchables " is unheard of.

A form of Hindustani, hardly recognised by the newcomer from India, is becoming the common language of Hindu and Tamil alike.

Fijian and Indian live side by side in perfect amity. They do not intermarry and have practically no social relations with one another, and disputes between members of the two races are rare. There is no real poverty or discontent among them. They live, each family on its own holding and not in established villages as in India, and, although as a consequence the " panchayat " system of settling their petty disputes is rarely resorted to, they find the District Commissioners always accessible to them, a patient hearing is always given to their complaints, and when they resort to litigation a rapid and just settlement is effected of the question involved.

The year has seen a considerable expansion in the educational and medical facilities provided for them. Increased political rights are to be granted to them.

Approval has been given to the appointment to the Government Service of an additional officer qualified to act as Adviser to the Governor in matters affecting Indians in the Colony. Mr. J. R. Pearson, C.I.E., a retired officer of the Indian Civil Service, has been selected for the appointment, which will carry the title of Secretary for Indian Affairs.

VIII. Climate.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20·30 and 03·30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° F. mean sea-level, was 29·939 ; the highest recorded being 30·212 on 21st August and the lowest 29·528 on 3rd March.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest reading and the dates of their occurrences :—

Months.	*Monthly means.*	*Highest recorded.*	*Date.*	*Lowest recorded.*	*Date.*
January.. ..	29·822	29·988	6th	29·600	31st
February ..	29·827	30·013	6th	29·616	1st
March	29·872	30·042	10th	29·528	3rd
April	29·971	30·091	6th	29·827	28th
May	29·956	30·973	9th	29·817	6th
June	30·010	30·154	10th	29·777	4th
July	29·973	30·141	26th	29·716	10th
August	30·048	30·212	21st	29·895	8th
September ..	30·020	30·176	18th	29·769	25th
October ..	29·955	30·122	14th	29·808	24th
November ..	29·923	30·031	18th	29·815	22nd
December ..	29·897	30·018	23rd	29·764	3rd

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 76·6° F., the highest recorded being 91° F. on 26th and 28th December, and the lowest 62° F. on 27th June, 13th and 15th July and 13th August.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 78·3, the greatest amount, namely, 100 per cent., being recorded on the following dates : 8th May, 4th and 13th June, 20th July, 24th, 25th and 26th September, and the lowest recorded being 50 per cent. on 11th July and 16th October.

The following table gives the mean temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentages of relative humidity and the highest and lowest recorded, with the date of their occurrence during each month of the year :—

	Temperature in Shade.					*Humidity 100-saturation.*				
Month.	*Mean.*	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*	*Mean per cent.*	*Highest. per cent.*	*Date.*	*Lowest per cent.*	*Date.*
January	80·3	89°	20th	69°	7th, 9th, 15th	71·6	91	17th	54	12th
February	76·9	85°	1st	70°	19th, 23rd	88·1	99	15th, 22nd	62	7th
March	78·6	90°	4th	68°	13th	83·2	96	19th	62	12th
April	76·6	85°	25th	68°	24th	79·8	96	24th	63	4th
May	76·2	87°	30th	66°	1st	78·9	100	8th	62	27th
June	74·4	86°	4th	62°	27th	81·8	100	5th, 13th	54	25th
July	72·7	83°	4th, 20th, 31st	62°	13th, 15th	78·0	100	20th	50	11th
August	73·8	84°	9th, 24th	62°	13th	72·7	94	11th	51	22nd
September	74·6	86°	16th	63°	11th	81·7	100	24th, 25th, 26th	52	10th
October	77·1	90°	18th	67°	9th, 22nd	74·0	96	19th	50	16th
November	78·3	87°	7th, 22nd	69°	17th	77·3	99	12th	55	16th
December	79·7	91°	26th, 28th	68°	7th	72·3	99	28th	53	7th

Rainfalls.—Rain fell on 219 days of the year, with a total fall of 103·39 inches; the greatest amount recorded for any one day being 5·17 inches, which occurred on the 23rd April and on the 24th September.

The following table gives the total rainfall, the number of days on which rain fell, and the greatest amount registered in 24 hours, together with the dates of occurrence for each month of the year :—

Month.	*Total fall inches.*	*Number of days rain.*	*Greatest fall per 24 hours.*	*Date.*
January ..	5·07	15	1·31	21st
February ..	16·89	26	2·27	11th
March.. ..	9·26	20	2·02	18th
April	10·12	21	5·17	23rd
May	8·33	14	3·79	7th
June	16·70	23	5·02	4th
July	8·19	17	3·98	20th
August ..	0·88	11	0·35	15th
September ..	13·57	21	5·17	24th
October ..	3·22	15	1·73	23rd
November ..	6·46	19	2·18	12th
December ..	4·70	17	0·90	20th

The total amount for August, viz. : 0·88 inches, is the lowest on record for this month during the last 42 years.

Winds.—The following table gives the direction of the wind at observation times, viz. : 20·30 and 03·30 Greenwich Mean Time, for each month of the year :—

Month.	*North.*		*North-East.*		*East.*		*South-East.*		*South.*		*South-West.*		*West.*		*North-West.*		*Calms.*	
	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30	20·30	03·30
January	3	0	4	2	8	5	8	16	2	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
February	2	2	11	5	8	10	1	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
March	1	3	10	6	9	13	3	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
April	3	0	8	7	12	12	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
May	7	2	9	11	4	7	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
June	4	2	5	4	8	13	6	8	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1
July	6	4	6	7	2	3	3	9	1	2	0	5	2	1	1	0	10	0
August	2	0	7	6	9	8	4	11	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
September	1	0	6	4	7	13	9	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
October	2	1	7	4	9	9	5	10	2	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1
November	1	0	1	2	14	12	8	12	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	1
December	2	1	6	3	9	14	10	9	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Year	34	15	80	61	99	119	67	123	14	23	10	10	6	4	2	0	53	7

N.B.—On three occasions no observations were taken.

During the season the south-easterly trade winds were remarkably light for most of the time.

Thunder-storms.—Twenty thunder-storms occurred during the year, in the following order: January eight, June one, July two, September one, October one, November four, and December three.

No cyclonic disturbances of importance occurred within the Group during the hurricane season, viz., 12th November to 30th April, but two small disturbances occurred outside the Group at other seasons, of which the following are descriptions :—

(1) A cyclonic disturbance was reported, by the French War Sloop "Cassiopée," 140 miles N.W. of Suva, moving in a south-westerly direction, on 6th May. The vessel experienced wind from 56E. through N. to N. N.W. Force 7 to 8 (Beauford's Scale), the lowest barometer reading being 29·49.

(2) A cyclonic disturbance existed between Fiji and the Tongan Islands on the 10th and 11th July, moving approximately S.E. Suva experienced N.N.E. through North to S.W. winds of force, the lowest barometer reading being 29·69, while Nukualofa (Tonga) experienced N.E. (through N. and N.W.) to S.W. winds reaching force 10/11 for short duration only, the lowest barometer reading recorded from here being 29·35.

IX. Communications.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Oceanic Steamship Company convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, San Francisco, Australia, New Zealand and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by the Government steamer, "Pioneer," several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours' daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy, at the rate of £1,800 per annum, was paid during 1926 to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports.

In addition, with the approval of Legislative Council, tenders were called in July for the maintenance of a further inter-insular steamship service, tenderers being required in consideration of the grant of a subsidy of £7,500 per annum to provide a vessel with ample cargo and passenger accommodation for a four-weekly call at a number of ports and copra-producing centres, with which no regular communication at all by steam vessels has for many years existed. A tender from Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, was accepted, and it was arranged that the new service should commence early in 1927. The advent of this vessel will not only add considerably to the amenities of life of European settlers on the various islands of the Group to be served by the contract vessel, but will increase considerably the facilities that already exist for the convenient marketing of island produce from certain scattered islands and from the Dependency of Rotuma, which is included in the itinerary of the contract vessel.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which 11½ miles is by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu and Ba, and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, and Taveuni. In addition, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

A telephone line from Bureta to Levuka was constructed during the year. The district of Naililili was also connected with Nausori by telephone. The preliminary work of constructing a telephone line some 60 miles in length, to connect the planters on the south coast of Vanualevu with the Savusavu wireless station, was undertaken. Forty-three new subscribers were connected to the Suva telephone exchange.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established by Government.

Negotiations are at present in progress for the transfer of the wireless telegraph service to the Amalgamated Wireless Telegraph Company (Australasia) Limited, which Company proposes to improve the services and give extended facilities at lower rates.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

The road system of the Colony consists of some 1,180 miles of road, of which 217 miles are motor roads and a further 58 miles are safe for motor traffic in dry weather only. The balance of the roads consists of 51 miles of cart roads and 854 miles of bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improved road surfaces to meet this steady increase in traffic. At the end of 1925 there were 634 motor vehicles in the Colony, an increase of over 100 per cent. on the 1922 figures. At the end of 1926 this figure had increased to 823, made up as follows: 297 private motor-cars, 311 taxi-cars, 117 motor-lorries, and 98 motor-cycles.

A. W. SEYMOUR,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Suva, Fiji.

1*st May*, 1927.

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About 80 islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu, are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole Group itself is situated midway between the Tongan, or Friendly, Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti, and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savu Savu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,5[illegible]0 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans

(4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is provided a well-protected waterway.

Historical.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator, Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the Group " Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed " Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa, or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel the " Duff " was nearly lost on the reef of Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the " Bounty," Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. " Province " in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig " Eliza," with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau.

Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel the "Hunter" of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the good will of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette "Vandalia" arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "Acknowledged, ratified and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession, dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased to three; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

Languages.

English is spoken by the 4,500 Europeans resident in the Colony. The estimated Fijian population is 90,000. Many native dialects are spoken but the majority of Fijian male adults and a large proportion of the women are also acquainted with the Bauan dialect, which has been adopted as the official Fijian language. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 70,000, a form of

Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families, but Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,000 speaks Cantonese.

Currency.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which with the Government currency notes issue is the legal tender of the Colony.

Weights and Measures.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence on the 12th November, 1927, and Mr. A. W. Seymour, V.D., who had assumed duty as Colonial Secretary on the 20th January, 1927, acted as Governor until the end of the year.

There were a number of important changes of personnel in 1927, and on the 28th May, Mr. J. R. Pearson, C.I.E., who had recently retired from the Indian Civil Service, was appointed Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Although the total trade of the Colony during the year 1927 shows no improvement over the previous year—the totals for the two years in fact being almost identical—the figures for imports and exports were far more satisfactory, inasmuch as the exports exceeded the imports by just on three-quarters of a million pounds. This was due partly to the fact that at the end of 1926 importing houses were carrying unusually large stocks, and partly to the largely increased tonnage of sugar exported. Unlike the previous year the rainfall in the sugar-producing areas was unusually heavy resulting in an exceptional crop but with a low percentage of cane sugar. So large was the crop that the crushing season did not end until the end of January, 1928. As a result of the conditions in 1927, the growth of the young cane was accelerated and it is probable that the crop for 1928 will be larger than has been cut for many years. It may be remarked that of recent years the tendency is more and more for Fiji sugar to go to Canada instead of New Zealand as in the past. During 1927 over 50 per cent. of the sugar exported went to Canada.

The Colony's financial position was again more than maintained, and the year's figures show another handsome surplus of revenue over expenditure, amounting in 1927 to £51,635.

Agriculture, referred to in greater detail in the report under its appropriate head, continues to be the economic backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the most important crop, after which come in order of importance coconuts and bananas, dairying, cattle-breeding, and the growing of cotton, pine-apples, maize, and rice, the last two named for local consumption, are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, whereas cotton growing is a recent revival, and pineapple canning and dairying are recent innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having to diversify its agricultural products on short notice.

The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Levuana iridescens*, appears to have met with complete success, and confidence has been restored among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites from the Federated Malay States and Java the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely. The final position will not be known for at least another year, but it is now probable that sufficient parasites have been introduced to effect a permanent control of the pest. In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign will not only permit coconuts to be grown on the largest island, Vitilevu, but will also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the South Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence.

The new offices of the Agricultural Department were completed during the year, and the technical and accounting staff of the Department strengthened.

The increase in the tourist traffic was maintained. The number of passengers arriving at all Fiji ports from overseas in 1925 was 2,437, in 1926 3,722, and in 1927 3,980. Deducting 20 per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,200 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of some 1,500 on the figure for 1925.

The growth in the tourist traffic is due to increased shipping facilities, the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, the opening of a bowling green, and other increased facilities for sport in Suva, and the issue of advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local tourist bureau.

The third annual Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural, and Industrial Show, held in October, 1927, eclipsed all previous efforts, and warrants the assumption that the Annual Show is now firmly re-established. The entries totalled 1,584, an increase on the previous year of 220 and nearly 600 more than the first Show in 1925. The financial results were satisfactory and a reserve fund of about £400 has placed the Fiji Show Association (as it is now called) in a sound position. There were two new features introduced in 1927 which proved both popular and useful, viz., the Health Department's Exhibit and the Native Section. Both attracted great attention and were most excellent from every point of view. There was a great increase in the Live Stock Section and it is claimed that the Show has been responsible for a marked improvement of the stock in the Colony, many pedigree animals having been imported into Fiji during the past three years. The Show was open for two days and the number of visitors totalled nearly 5,000. The quality of the exhibits all round marked a distinct advance on that of previous Shows and is very encouraging for the future.

The Colony was honoured by its inclusion in the itinerary followed by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York on the occasion of their visit to the Commonwealth of Australia for the official opening of the new Parliament Buildings at Canberra. The Royal visitors received an enthusiastic welcome from all races and classes. Native ceremonies of loyalty and respect were performed by Fijian chiefs of the highest rank, and presentations made of articles of native workmanship. A civic reception was arranged by the Mayor of Suva, at which the Duke addressed those assembled, and at an official Ball held at the Grand Pacific Hotel the members of the European community, and the leaders of the Fijian and Indian races, had the honour of presentation to Their Royal Highnesses. The Duke and Duchess, who, in the course of their stay in the Colony, were able to make a brief tour of the country in the neighbourhood of the capital, included in their programme a visit of inspection to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, and on their departure from the Colony they were graciously pleased to express their appreciation of all the arrangements made for their reception.

In December, the Right Honourable L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dominion Affairs, passed through Suva in the course of his journey from Australia to Canada, and spent a few hours in the Colony. He was welcomed by the Mayor at a Civic reception at the Town Hall of Suva, and delivered a speech dealing with the particular problems of the Colony, its trade, and its future development. The Secretary of State also accepted an Address of Welcome from the Council of the Association of European Civil Servants, and from the Indian Civil Servants, and in the course of a speech in reply to the Address presented by the former body he expressed his pleasure at the opportunity afforded to him of visiting this most distant Colony and effecting personal contact with the members of its Civil Service. In addition, he assured the members of the Service of the close interest of the Colonial Office in the conditions of service in Fiji, and undertook to examine sympathetically proposals for the provision of housing accommodation for officers stationed in Suva and increased passage allowances to officers proceeding to the United Kingdom.

The Colony was also privileged to entertain a number of other visitors during the year, including the Right Honourable S. Bruce, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

During the year, the scheme for the establishment at Suva of a Central Medical School for the training of natives from all the Pacific Islands to be Native Medical Practitioners, who, when qualified, would practise in the various island groups, where medical facilities have been hitherto extremely limited, received the approval of the Secretary of State, and the erection has begun of the necessary buildings.

The question of the revision of the Letters Patent in order to provide for the grant of the franchise on a communal basis to Indian settlers in the Colony, for the election of three Indian representatives to the Legislative Council, and for the reduction by one in the number of elected members of the Council, received attention during the year, and certain Committees were appointed to make preliminary recommendations on these and allied subjects. A Committee was also appointed to examine and report on the question of revising the Customs tariff and the methods of taxation employed in the Colony.

The vital statistics remain satisfactory, the figures showing an all-round increase in the population. The deaths during the year and the percentages of the respective classes of population were as follows :—

Europeans 43, being .96 per cent.; Fijians 2,074, being 2.3 per cent.; Indians 654, being .94 per cent.; Rotumans 82, being 3.63 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans 111, being 2.48 per cent.; Fijians 2,936, being 3.25 per cent.; Indians 1,926, being 2.78 per cent.; and Rotumans 114, being 5.05 per cent.

1,107 marriages were registered, being at the rate of .63 per cent. of the population.

An interesting comparison of the population at the Census of 24th April, 1921, and of the estimated population at the end of 1927 is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.

Class of Population.		Area in square miles	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in			Births. Number and Rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.		Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial			
Europeans	Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878		0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—
	Rotuma	14	23	7	—	—									
Half-castes	Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781		0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—
	Rotuma	—	—	—	29	23									
Fijians	... ...	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475		11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—
Indians	... ...	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634		8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—
Polynesians ...	...	—	—	—	1,271	293	1,564		0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	... ...	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235		0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	... ...	—	—	—	845	65	910		0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—
Others	... ...	—	—	—	431	358	789		0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—
Totals	...	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266		21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—

Estimated Population at 31st December, 1927.

Class of Population.		Area in square miles	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in			Births. Number and Rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.		Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial	Number. Rate.		Number. Rate.
Europeans	Fiji ...	—	2,468	1,990	—	—	4,458		0·60	—	—	—	111—24·78	34	43— 9·60
	Rotuma	—	11	11	—	—	22								
Half-castes	Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,597	1,488	3,085		0·42	—	—	—	72—23·08	16	23— 7·37
	Rotuma	—	—	—	23	12	35								
Fijians	... ...	—	—	—	46,612	43,651	90,263		12·14	—	—	—	2,936—32·53	760	2,074—22·98
Polynesians ...	...	—	—	—	1,602	424	2,026		0·27	—	—	—	33—16·29	10	73—36·03
Indians	... ...	—	—	—	41,757	27,706	69,463		9·34	—	—	—	1,926—27·72	254	654— 9·42
Rotumans	(Rotuma)	—	—	—	1,108	1,151	2,259		161·36	—	—	—	114—50·47	28	82—36·29
Chinese	... ...	—	—	—	1,023	83	1,106		0·15	—	—	—	26—23·51	—	6— 5·42
Others ...	Fiji ...	—	—	—	664	371	1,035		0·15	—	—	—	11— 9·83	5	30—26·81
	Rotuma	—	—	—	60	24	84								
Totals	...	7,435	2,479	2,001	94,446	74,910	—		23·38	—	—	—	5,229—30·08	1,107	2,985—17·17
Grand Totals		—	—	—	—	—	173,836		—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	479,982	429,666	565,467	758,632	193,165	—
1924	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515	—
1925	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453	—
1926	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression, as indicated in the trade statistics and also in the foregoing table, is due, firstly, to drastic retrenchment, secondly, to the revival of the sugar industry, and, thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied, only a slight increase thereof having been introduced, yet not only have very considerable surpluses of revenue been obtained during the last four years but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which most directly affect the future welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The excess of liabilities over assets of £243,482 at the end of 1922 was converted by the end of 1927 into a surplus of assets over liabilities of £16,739—an improvement of £260,221 within five years.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

Liabilities :—	
	£
Notes in circulation	367,399
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	73,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1927)	347,303
Depreciation Fund Investments	25,931
	£446,715

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1927, £79,316.

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1927 produced a net surplus of £13,877, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		17,405
Expenses	408	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,120	
		3,528
Surplus		£13,877

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony is as under :—

	£
(*a*) Public Works Loan	82,700
(*b*) Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Loan ...	8,350
(*c*) Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents :—	
(i) for Loan Works	464,506
(ii) for Current Purposes	108,494
	£664,050

Debentures to the value of £62,050 were redeemed during the year, and the indebtedness to the Crown Agents was increased by £82,254.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,423,440, while that of the latter is £6,529,185. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,127,317, and by the Bank of New Zealand £324,016.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 5,197 to 5,986, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £136,417 to £141,686. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £5,269 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1926.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1927, was £153,368, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1927)	148,924	
		148,924
Surplus		£4,444

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1927 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		6,475
Interest credited to Depositors ...	4,284	
Salaries	930	
Expenses	228	5,442
Surplus		£1,033

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The year 1927 was unmarked by hurricanes or droughts. Exports of agricultural produce were well up to the average of recent years. In the case of the two most important products of the Colony, namely, cane sugar and copra, the exports were above the average in quantity. The market for Sea Island cotton remained dull and consequently a smaller acreage was planted. If this market does not exhibit a marked improvement, it is possible that the Sea Island type of cotton may disappear from the list of exports from the Colony, but experiments are now being conducted, with every indication of success, to discover a type of cotton suited to the climate of this Colony and to other local conditions and to the demands of buyers in England. The continuation for a second year of the experiment in growing and canning pine-apples had been watched with much local interest and, as the quality of the Fiji product appears to be equal to the best produced elsewhere, there are reasons for anticipating that the experiment will lead to the permanent establishment of this industry within the Colony. A meat cannery, the first to be erected in the Colony, is approaching completion and should exert a stabilising effect on the cattle-raising industry. The experiment in dairying continues to be of interest and, after a not inconsiderable struggle, the three butter factories now in operation appear to be on a sound financial basis. The dairying industry also seems to be definitely established.

Cane Sugar.

For many years cane sugar has been the chief product exported. The exports for the year were well up to the average. Since 1918, when indentured labour was abolished, the industry has undergone a process of reorganisation, in the course of which a peasant tenant system has been introduced. This system is being increasingly adopted and appears to be meeting with a considerable measure of success.

Sugar exports for the last five years have been :—

	Cwt.
1923	882,160
1924	889,440
1925	1,834,880
1926	1,139,820
1927	1,455,060

Copra.

The amount of copra exported was reduced by the effect of a partial drought in 1926 and by the after effects of successive defoliation caused by the Levuana moth since the year 1922 on Ovalau and adjoining islands. Nevertheless, the exports during the year that has closed were within 1,300 tons of the record output of 1926. During the year, a Copra Improvement Ordinance was enacted as an instrument for effecting a gradual improvement in the quality of the product.

Exports for the last five years have been :—

	Tons.
1923	24,161
1924	23,137
1925	24,133
1926	27,868
1927	26,560

The Levuana Moth.—In 1922 and following years the coconut industry was threatened with extinction on account of the depredations of this insect, and a campaign was commenced in order to find a remedy. Mention of this campaign and the success with which it appears to have met will be found in the general chapter of this report. The trees have now recovered on Ovalau and the adjoining islands and for the first time in five years produced a small amount of copra.

The Coconut Scale.—The insect, a comparatively new arrival in the Colony, responsible for this condition appears to do more damage in Fiji than in the majority of other coconut-producing countries and it has been found necessary to instigate a campaign to check its ravages. In Java and the West Indies several small beetles feed upon this insect and steps have been taken to arrange for the introduction of these beetles to Fiji. A beetle of some promise has now been introduced from Java and certain beetles from the West Indies have been collected and are being brought to the Colony by an entomologist of the Agricultural Department and should arrive early in 1928. It is not of course possible as yet to estimate the degree of success that is likely to result from the introduction of these parasites.

Bananas.

The banana industry has been in an unsatisfactory condition for several years principally as a result of the loss of the Australian market that followed the imposition by the Commonwealth of a tariff of one penny per lb. Small shipments of choice fruit are now being sent to Australia, but a revival of large shipments is unlikely unless the tariff is reduced or abolished. Shipments to the only other market, New Zealand, have remained at about the same level for the last three years with a slight decline in 1927. There is little prospect of important expansion in this market unless a more frequent steamship service can be inaugurated. With a view to ensuring the retention of a permanent footing in the New Zealand market a campaign has been begun to clean up and replant the native plantations, which are estimated to supply over 90 per cent. of the fruit exported.

Exports for the past five years have been :—

	Bunches.
1923	406,607
1924	467,845
1925	565,623
1926	564,397
1927	544,359

Cotton.

Production of Sea Island cotton since the revival of the industry has been :—

1923	101	bales	of	approximately	350	lb.
1924	180	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1925	136	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1926	919	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1927	404	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,

In the first three years specified very high prices were received, but these have now declined to such an extent that the crop barely pays to grow. As already stated, several other varieties have been under test at the Cotton Experimental Station and two of these, both of the Kidney type, show promise of being more lucrative than the Sea Island variety in the present condition of the market. Cotton growing is not yet an established industry in the Colony and much will depend upon the performances of the varieties now under test.

Dairying.

In 1922 and prior to the development of this industry, butter imports were valued at £11,897. The three butter factories now produce not only practically all the butter required for local consumption but also a small margin for export, the export figures for 1927 being 484 cwt., valued at £3,615. The annual value of butter produced can now be estimated at certainly not less than £16,000 and possibly nearer £20,000. There have been many difficulties to contend with, but these are becoming fewer.

The Pine-apple Experiment.

The second year has now concluded of the operation of the agreement between the Government and Canadian Canners, Limited, for the growing and canning of pine-apples for export. Many favourable comments have been made in New Zealand, Canada, and London on the quality of the product and, as the costs of production appear to be satisfactory, there now appears to be a definite prospect that the industry may become firmly established. Two hundred and twelve tons of fruit were tinned in 1927 as compared with 125 tons in 1926.

Rice.

The Government Rice Mill continues to show a profit, but the volume of business done is small, largely because many East Indians prefer to mill their own paddy by the primitive methods traditional among them. Three smaller mills are also in operation, two being owned by East Indians. In 1926 there was practically no paddy grown on account of the prolonged drought and as the rice mill year closes on 30th June the lack of paddy is reflected in rice mill accounts of the year.

The Government Rice Mill has been in operation since 1922 and has produced 2,897 tons of rice as follows :—

	Tons.
1922	293
1923	728
1924	811
1925	402
1926	480
1927	183

The total consumption of rice in the Colony is known to be at least 2,400 tons and is probably considerably in excess of that figure.

Meat Cannery.

The meat cannery on the Tova estate has been practically completed and will commence production early in 1928. A large amount of capital has been expended in developing the estate and in erecting a small but efficient meat works, and it will be greatly to the advantage of the Colony as a whole if this venture meets with the success it deserves.

Mining Operations.

Prospecting operations continue on a small scale. No discovery of minerals in payable quantities was reported during the year.

Only four new prospecting licences were issued covering an aggregate area of 1,640 acres. Nineteen new Miners' Rights and two renewals of Miners' Rights were applied for and issued.

Forestry.

No new timber concessions were approved. Consideration of such applications as were received was deferred until the report of the Forestry expert who investigated the forests of the Colony during the year should have been received and its recommendations considered.

Production of milled timber showed little increase. The Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company's mill situated in the mountains at Nadarivatu is still restricted in its output on account of transport difficulties. Although the main roadway down the Nadarivatu escarpment has been improved at the sharp bends, which enables motor-lorries to be used with some degree of safety, the problem of devising some more economical method of transporting sawn timber to the coast still awaits a solution. Messrs. J. T. Tuck and Sons of Buca Bay, Vanualevu Island, have been unable materially to increase their production.

The Pacific Timbers Limited, whose mill is situated on the Dreketi River, Vanualevu Island, produced but little timber during the year. It was decided that the quantity of timber available did not justify the construction of tramways, and it is reported that this Company intends to construct logging-ways and to employ motor-tractors on these for the hauling of timber to the mill.

Practically the whole of the milled timber produced in the Colony was consumed locally; the quantity exported being only 1,390 superficial feet, valued at £33.

Mr. J. P. Mead, Conservator of Forests, Sarawak, arrived on the 30th December, 1926, for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the timber resources of this Colony. Mr. Mead carried out his investigations in the main islands of Vitilevu and Vanualevu and on their completion left for England on the 16th June. It had been suggested that the climatic conditions during the early months of the year would render it advisable that Mr. Mead's arrival should be deferred until April or May, but circumstances relating to his service in the Government of Sarawak did not allow delay. Mr. Mead's comprehensive and valuable report on the forests of the Colony of Fiji was completed in England in August and transmitted to this Government for printing and is now under consideration.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1927 amounted to £3,220,677 of which the value of imports was £1,223,303 and of exports £1,997,374. The value of imports was less than that for 1926 by £257,642, while the value of exports exceeded that for 1926 by £256,947. Although in 1926 the value of exports only exceeded the value of imports by £259,482, in 1927 the balance of trade in favour of the Colony amounted to £774,071.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1923	989,060	1,553,239	2,542,299
1924	1,066,594	1,508,934	2,575,528
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677

During the period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

Country.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	279,971	269,231	332,080	444,047	316,824
Australia	412,199	438,715	576,260	607,171	528,740
Canada	54,824	59,067	42,128	59,633	51,105
India...	27,925	39,643	25,423	48,161	45,253
New Zealand ...	103,855	127,837	117,413	142,225	124,775
Japan	16,816	14,065	13,314	30,067	13,454
United States ...	75,298	103,356	143,089	123,574	122,470

The preceding figures show that during the years mentioned the proportion of total import trade done with the several countries was as under :—

Country.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	23·31	25·24	26·12	29·99	25·90
Australia	41·68	41·13	45·33	41·00	43·22
Canada	5·54	5·54	3·30	4·03	4·18
India	2·82	3·72	2·00	3·25	3·70
New Zealand ...	10·50	11·98	9·24	9·60	10·20
Japan	1·70	1·32	1·05	2·03	1·09
United States ...	7·61	9·69	11·26	8·34	10·02

Imports.

The United Kingdom is the main source of our general imports.

These cover practically every class of goods and include sugar machinery, steam and oil engines, railway track, canning machinery, steel and metal bars and sheets, paints and oils, cement, hardware, enamelled ware, cutlery, clothing, piece goods, preserves, etc., but no trade is done in power or illuminating oils nor foodstuffs other than a small quantity of canned goods.

Although the value of imports from the United Kingdom fell from £444,047 in 1926 to £316,824 in 1927, this must not be taken as an indication of a decrease in trade for the decrease is directly due to overstocking by importers during 1925 and 1926. At the same time, there is every indication that the trade with the United Kingdom during 1928 will revert to normal and approximate the figures for 1926, but unless new industries of some importance are established or a renewal of immigration of labour occurs the prospects of materially increasing that trade are small. The proportion of import trade with United Kingdom was 25.9 per cent. in 1927 and the average for the last five years was 27.13 per cent. This proportion is not inconsiderable and must be considered as satisfactory when it is recognised that the United Kingdom does not supply food-stuffs to the Colony.

The main import trade with Australia and New Zealand is in food-stuffs and coal, the balance being made up mostly of goods re-exported, and the imports from Canada are represented chiefly by canned fish, motor-cars, tyres, and timber. The proportion of import trade done with these places in 1927 was 57.6 per cent.

The imports from United States of America consist mainly of lubricating, illuminating, and power oils and items of general hardware, those from Japan being chiefly cheap cotton goods. The proportion of the trade done by these countries was 10.02 per cent. and 1.09 per cent. respectively.

Exports.

The following Return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

		1923.		*1924.*		*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity*	*Value.*	*Quantity*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar	Tons	44,108	866,287	44,472	768,110	91,744	1,371,267	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215
Copra	,,	24,161	443,445	23,137	484,496	24,133	497,713	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416
Molasses	,,	8,392	8,392	4,783	4,783	8,283	8,283	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181
Bananas	Bunches	406,607	94,325	467,845	115,246	565,623	132,491	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819
Rubber	lb.	89,753	5,128	159,995	7,416	145,213	16,116	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276
Gum	cwt.	274	553	600	984	980	1,504	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707
Shell, turtle ...	lb.	545	393	1,446	1,313	2,412	3,179	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382
Shell, trocas ...	Tons	439	12,430	584	21,565	567	35,054	378	30,540	269	16,355
Bêche de mer ...	cwt.	428	1,844	459	1,896	671	3,105	886	3,909	1,412	6,496
Biscuits	lb.	115,185	2,604	334,365	7,788	482,146	10,429	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334
Butter	cwt.	2	19	—	—	213	1,881	525	3,616	484	3,615
Cotton	lb.	—	—	86,659	7,176	7,612	571	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593
Oil, coconut ...	Tons	338	10,174	74	2,977	132	5,026	91¼	4,387	79	3,357
Fruit, other fresh	—	—	4,165	—	2,756	—	6,041	—	6,579	—	5,536
Vegetables, ,,	cwt.	3,852	2,529	5,853	2,572	4,845	3,171	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717

As will be seen from the preceding table, the main exports of the Colony are sugar, copra, and bananas.

The production of copra is steadily increasing although in no marked degree. The value of the copra exported during 1927 was £534,416, representing a tonnage of 26,560 tons of which 22,666 tons were shipped to United Kingdom and Continental ports and 3,894 tons to the United States.

Of the 72,752 tons of sugar exported in 1927, 15,236 tons were exported to New Zealand and 57,271 tons to Canada. This latter is a new market for Fiji sugar; the whole output in former years being taken by New Zealand. The prospects of the industry are good.

The banana industry is one most suited to the natives and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present, but it is thought possible that with improved methods of planting and packing entry may again be made into the markets of Commonwealth of Australia from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for several years.

Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber and cotton. These are comparatively new industries and are capable of expansion. Of the rubber exported during 1927, 122,597 lb. went to the United States of America and 92,162 lb. to the United Kingdom. The whole of the cotton exported which was of the Sea Island variety was sent to the United Kingdom.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Matson Navigation Company convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, San Francisco, Australia, New Zealand, and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by a steamer owned by Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the Government steamer "Pioneer," several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours of daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy at the rate of £1,600 per annum was paid during 1927 to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports. In addition, the Government entered into an agreement to remain in operation for five years, from the 1st May, 1927, to pay a subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum to Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, for the maintenance of an additional inter-insular steamship service. The vessel provided under this agreement has ample cargo and passenger accommodation to meet all possible demands and makes a four-weekly call at a number of ports and copra-producing centres with which no regular communication at all by steam vessels has for many years existed. The advent of this vessel has not only added considerably to the amenities of life of European settlers on the various islands of the Group, but has increased considerably the facilities that already existed for the convenient marketing of island produce from certain scattered islands and from the Dependency of Rotuma which is included in the itinerary.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which 11½ miles are by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu, and Ba and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, Savu Savu, and Taveuni. In addition the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

A telephone line some 60 miles in length to connect the planters on the south coast of Vanualevu with the Savu Savu wireless station was constructed during the year. Fifty-seven new subscribers were connected to the Suva telephone exchange.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savu Savu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established by the Government. The transfer of these wireless stations to the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Company, Limited, will be effected as from the 1st January, 1928. This Company proposes to improve the services and give extended facilities at lower rates.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

The road system of the Colony consists of 1,886 miles of road, of which 343 miles are suitable for motor traffic but are not continuous, being situated in five or six islands and centred at Suva, Lautoka, Navua, Sigatoka, Taveuni, Savu Savu and Lau, and are not inter-connected even when situated in the same island. The balance of the roads consists of 98 miles of cart roads and 1,445 miles of bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improved road surfaces to meet the steady increase in traffic. At the end of 1925 there were 634 motor vehicles in the Colony, an increase of over 100 per cent. on the 1922 figures. At the end of 1926 this figure had increased to 823, made up as follows: 297 private motor-cars, 311 taxi-cars, 117 motor-lorries, and 98 motor-cycles.

At the end of 1927 there were 949 motor vehicles registered:—

378 private motor-cars,
320 public motor-cars,
151 motor-lorries,
100 motor-cycles.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 constitutes the Supreme Court by which it is declared to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure.

The officers of the Court are a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar, a Clerk, and an Interpreter.

Under the Ordinance quoted, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of Barristers and Solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are also regulated by Rules of the

Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and Nisi Prius with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the powers and authorities of the High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th March, 1894, Rules providing for the Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court were also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit, and this provision applies to all Imperial laws extended to the Colony.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva in April, July, September, and December. The Court also goes on Circuit to Lautoka in February, June, and October each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva the accused and witnesses from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit otherwise to order. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree the Court can accept a verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice: in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between twenty-one and sixty, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Pacific Cable Board, practising physicians, surgeons and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors and their clerks in actual practice, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice, by whom a copy of notes of the evidence taken at the trial are forwarded to the Governor with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases either issues a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to "The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by "The Civil Procedure Rules (1875)" or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the Procedure and Practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890.

Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905.

Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions, and the Admiralty Rules already referred to.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908 and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

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* *Cf.* Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

The ordinary Sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.*

An Ordinance of 1883 provides that if the Chief Justice shall think that the nature or amount of civil business pending at Levuka (the ancient capital) is sufficient to warrant the holding of a sitting there, he may appoint a date for such sitting. Of recent years this power has not been utilised and the provision of the "Levuka District Registry," by which all preliminary matters up to the actual hearing can be dealt with, has been very seldom used, as litigants prefer to come to Suva.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided† in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal. Provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. (Ordinance No. 2 of 1903.) Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10. Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction only over natives of the Colony. These Courts are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate of the district and operating under the Native Courts Code, 1912, and other Regulations passed by the Board to govern the life of the natives of the Colony in accordance with their customs, and their communal life and holding of land. Such a Court is given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear a petition for divorce from a native, but cannot pronounce a decree, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. In addition, there is the District Court presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences involving a maximum penalty of 40s., or imprisonment for six weeks, and in civil matters where the sum of money, or the value of the property claimed, does not exceed 40s.*

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* Rules, 1906.

† Ordinance 2 of 1903.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

During the year 1927 seventy-three civil actions were instituted in the Supreme Court, made up as follows :—

> Summonses for debt, etc., 32; summonses for rent, rates, etc., 7; originating summonses 7; actions under mortgages and agreements 5; actions for damages 3; petitions for reduction of capital 2; Writs of Habeas Corpus 2; applications for admission as barristers and solicitors 1; miscellaneous 9 (being chiefly actions dealing with land matters). One only of these actions was commenced at the Levuka District Registry.

During the year there were no Criminal Appeals, and only two Civil Appeals were filed, one of which was an appeal against the decision of a Provincial Court and the other an Appeal against the decision of a Court of Review sitting on Income Tax Assessments at Suva. The first was not proceeded with and the second was dismissed. There were six petitions for divorce filed, one of which was European, the others being Indian and half-caste petitioners and one Fijian who elected to file his petition in the Supreme Court, claiming damages. Native divorces totalled 72, of which five petitions were dismissed. Seventy-two grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year. One petition for bankruptcy was presented during 1927, and, in the case of a firm against whom proceedings were originally instituted in 1924 and who had been subsequently carrying on business under a scheme of arrangement, the Official Receiver was appointed Interim Receiver of the property of the debtors.

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* p. 6 Native Court Code, 1912.

Police.

(a) *Strength.*—On 31st December, 1927, the authorised strength was :—

Europeans—	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors	4
Head Constables	5
Natives—	
N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	92
Indians—	
N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	78
	221

The Force was five short of strength on that date.

The officers and men are distributed over twenty stations on six different islands.

Recruiting is difficult, the pay and conditions of service failing to attract the right class of man in sufficient numbers.

(b) *Expenditure.*—The total cost of the Force for all services was £20,498 18s. 6d. The cost of Police per man is £94 18s. 0½d. and the cost per head of the population is 2s. 4½d.

(c) *Crime.*—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was :—

Offences against the person	182
Offences against property	316
Other offences	1,091
	1,589

Comparatively few of these offences were of a serious nature.

There were three cases of homicide, four of rape, and eight of robbery. About sixty per centum of the offenders were Indians.

(d) Supervision is exercised over all persons entering or leaving the Colony.

(e) *Traffic.*—All traffic is regulated by the Constabulary, while the Force carries out the registration of motor vehicles and the examination and licensing of drivers.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 949, being as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	378
Public motor passenger vehicles	320
Goods lorries	151
Motor-cycles	100

426 persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, 71 of them in respect of reckless or negligent driving.

(f) *Training.*—The fact that it has not been possible to provide funds to establish a Reserve renders the proper training of recruits a matter of difficulty.

(g) *Health.*—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony, very few men reporting sick.

(h) *Barracks.*—With the exception of Headquarters at Suva, the accommodation is adequate. It is hoped that the contemplated extension and reconstruction of the Headquarters buildings and offices will soon be undertaken. The completion of the work will prove a great benefit to the members of the Force and to the public who have business to transact at Police Headquarters.

(i) Communication is difficult between stations owing to the scarcity of roads and between the different islands as it is rarely possible to find available vessels travelling when required in the desired direction.

Prisons.

The prisons of the Colony are under the charge of a Superintendent.

The main Penitentiary is at Suva, and is an up-to-date establishment with every modern improvement for the safe custody and handling of criminals. The system is not reformative, but industries have been established whereby prisoners are taught useful trades such as tinsmithing, blacksmithing, matmaking, tailoring, and carpentering. There is also a Government bakery at Suva Gaol, which is conducted at a substantial profit. There are nineteen Provincial or District Gaols where short-sentence prisoners are confined and are employed principally in maintaining the Government Stations.

No institution exists at present for reformative treatment of youthful criminals, but a Committee appointed to investigate this subject and submit recommendations thereon is about to report on the advisability of adopting a suitable scheme for the handling of juvenile delinquents, and it is likely that an Industrial School for the accommodation of offenders of this class will be established in the near future.

The number of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony is as follows :—

	Male.	*Female.*
1923	1,041	3
1924	1,037	6
1925	1,130	9
1926	997	30
1927	1,081	17
Average over period	1,057.2	13

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total sum expended by the Public Works Department in 1927 amounted to £170,187, of which £66,255 represented expenditure under Loan Works Account. This total marks a record in the operations of the Department, corresponding figures for the past five years being as follows :—

	£
1923	122,625
1924	119,871
1925	115,683
1926	136,327
1927	170,187

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works and is carried out from Headquarters in Suva. For the general executive purposes of the Department the Colony is divided into three districts, with headquarters at Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is nominally under the charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, machine shops, repair shops, and boatyard. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, etc., operates from Walu Bay. The slipway after enlargement last year was able to accommodate the "Makatea" with a deadweight of nearly 1,000 tons, although the way was originally constructed to deal with vessels up to 500 tons only. Further improvements are in progress; a second slipway is to be built for small craft, a new Government stores building is in process of erection, estimated to cost £3,600, and a Plant Depot is to be established in 1928. A forge and foundry are under construction and a site has been provisionally selected for a future graving-dock.

The number of workmen employed by the Public Works Department in the Suva District is about 600 and the value of works carried out during 1927 in that district was £100,000.

A new inspection launch, the "Adi Beti," was launched in November. She is 60 feet long by 14 feet beam and is fitted with a Gardner semi-diesel engine of 72 h.p. This is the largest launch entirely designed and constructed by the Public Works Department and cost approximately £3,250. She is fitted with stateroom accommodation for eight passengers.

The most important work in progress in the Suva District in 1927 was the new Government House, which is being erected almost entirely under contract. The new Government House is being erected on the site of the original timber building which was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire in 1921. The elevations are in simple Doric style adapted to suit local conditions and carried out in substantial reinforced concrete construction. The estimated cost is £29,000. By the end of the year the structure had been completed except for certain internal joinery, fittings, and decorations There is every prospect of the building being handed over for occupation by the contract date, the 18th April, 1928.

As a result of careful investigations as to the stability of the King's Wharf, Suva, repairs were commenced during the year. The wharf is of the type according to which a reclamation about 40 feet deep is retained by a random rubble revetment surmounted by concrete trestles and slabs, backing a timber wharf super-structure carried on long spliced timber piles. It was found that owing to settlement of the reclamation and forward movement of the trestles and slabs, considerable horizontal pressure was being exerted on the timber structure. It was decided to remove all such pressure by removing the trestles and slabs bay by bay and re-erecting these on a continuous reinforced concrete mattress clear of the timber structure. Nearly one-third of the wharf which is 1,500 feet long was dealt with in this manner during the year.

The main storage reservoir on the Suva Water Supply was completed during 1927 and put into operation. The reservoir was constructed by the excavation of 120,000 cubic yards of "soapstone" on a hill site. After cutting off the top of the hill, material was removed from the centre, working outwards so far as the thickness and nature of the rock permitted. A capacity of about 13,000,000 gallons was thus obtained with a maximum depth of 25 feet. Spoil was run out through tunnels by gravity. The work was commenced in 1923 but, owing to scarcity of labour, progress has been delayed. The total cost, including a mile of 8-inch cast-iron watermain, meter house, caretaker's cottage, and concrete fence, was £15,687.

Roads and bridges continued to occupy the special attention of the Department. The total expenditure under this heading was £62,151 of which £21,537 was on loan account. The streets and roads within the Municipal areas of Suva and Levuka are maintained and improved by the respective Councils. The roads in the immediate vicinity of Suva are under the direct supervision of the

District Engineer, while the remainder of the Colony is divided for purposes of road administration into sixteen Road Board areas, which as a rule coincide with the Magisterial Districts.

During the year good progress was made on the Savu Savu coast road. A stretch of 14 miles was opened to motor traffic and four motor vehicles are now running.

Motor traffic also commenced on the island of Taveuni where during the year ten miles of motorable road were opened.

Motor traffic is increasing throughout the Colony and the policy of gradually improvng earth-roads with metal and gravel surfaces at a number of working points simultaneously is producing good results. To this end motor-lorries represent the most useful form of road construction plant, and the recent additions in this respect have produced a notable improvement in the rate of progress.

Under the present system the Road Boards which have legally only advisory powers are provided with funds from the General Revenue of the Colony. An experiment however was tried in 1927 on the island of Rotuma under which the necessary funds for road maintenance and improvement were provided by contributions from the natives, the motor-vehicle owners and the Government, each contributing approximately a third share of the expenditure. An expeditionary gang of Indian labourers was sent from Suva, and the results have been satisfactory.

No large new road works were carried out during the year, but roads were substantially improved in every district.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year was a satisfactory one as regards acute infectious fevers. The only ones prevalent were measles of a mild type and, in the later months of the year, influenza of more than average severity. There was also some increase in sporadic typhoid fever.

The general death-rate of 17 per thousand was satisfactory when compared with a birth-rate of 30, but the death-rate among native Fijians of 23 (birth-rate 32) is disturbing. The death-rate of Fijian infants under one year of age, 158 per thousand births, is also unduly high. The figures show that Fiji is an exceptionally healthy country for Europeans and East Indians (death-rate 9.5 per thousand and birth-rate 27), but that adverse sanitary or social conditions still cause a heavy mortality among Fijians. All Fijian villages are regularly inspected by officials of the District Administration Department and the Native Medical Practitioners. Practically all Fijians are within reach of medical aid, and there are thirteen Provincial Hospitals provided for them besides the three General Hospitals, but the death-rate still remains disappointing.

In May a qualified European Infant Welfare Nurse was appointed to the Fijian Province of Tailevu. She spends her whole time in the villages and has the help of two native nurses trained at the Colonial Hospital. This interesting experiment should give further information as to the causes of the excessive native mortality.

In Suva and the adjoining district the Public Health Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health and two qualified European whole-time Sanitary Inspectors. General sanitary inspections are regularly made. There is inspection of all meat slaughtered and of the dairies and milk supply. A new reservoir, with capacity for a three months' supply of water to the town, was opened during the year. An incinerator for the town garbage is being constructed.

In January a steamer conveying repatriates from Calcutta arrived in Suva with several cases of severe smallpox on board. Quarantine measures prevented the disease spreading beyond the ship's company. This event led to a vaccination campaign which aimed at vaccinating the whole population except those who had already been so treated within the past seven years, or twice during their lifetime. Up to the end of the year a third of the people of Fiji had been vaccinated.

An outbreak of epidemic dropsy confined to East Indians, which first appeared in December, 1926, continued during the early months of the year. The great majority of the cases were mild and many sufferers did not apply for treatment. Some few cases, however, were of a severe type and five deaths were reported. Investigations showed that rice, to which epidemics of this type are usually attributed, was a very unlikely cause of the outbreak in this instance, and the medical authorities were inclined to attribute the occurrence of the epidemic to the consumption of impure mustard oil.

The care of Public Health in the country districts is in the hands of twelve District Medical Officers, forty-two Native Medical Practitioners, a European Ankylostomiasis Officer, and five Indian Sanitary Inspectors. Besides the thirteen Provincial Hospitals there are General Hospitals at Levuka and Lautoka, a Methodist Mission Indian Women's Hospital at Ba which is subsidized by the Government, and subsidized European Cottage Hospitals at Ba, Savu Savu, and Taveuni.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva has 113 beds. There were 2,180 admissions during the year. There is a European Nursing Staff of five trained nurses and twelve probationers, and there are ten native nursing pupils. To this hospital is attached the Native Medical School which was attended in 1927 by twenty students, of whom twelve Fijians and three Indians are for the Fijian Medical Service, and three Samoans and two Gilbert and Ellice Islanders for service in the Islands.

Lepers of all races in Fiji are compulsorily segregated on the Island of Makogai, and lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands are also received in the Asylum. The staff includes a Resident Medical Superintendent, twelve European and eight Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters. There were 439 patients in the Asylum at the end of the year, of whom nine were from New Zealand, twenty-seven from Samoa, thirteen from Tonga, and fifty-seven from the Cook Islands.

Vital Statistics.

	Population. 31st December, 1927.	*Birth-rate. 1927.*	*Death-rate. 1927.*
Europeans	4,458	25·6	9·9
Fijians	90,263	32·6	23·0
East Indians	69,463	27·7	9·4
Other races	9,652	26·8	22·4

IX.—EDUCATION.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all practically interested in education: Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian School Committees.

Mission schools for Fijians exist in nearly every district, and Mission and private schools for Indians are being opened in districts where Indians reside.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an Industrial School at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time, also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematize the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education with School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

As a result of a resolution of the Great Council of Chiefs held in 1917, six provincial boarding schools for Fijians were founded during the years 1920-1925.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed and submitted its report. Mr. John Caughley, M.A. (late Director of Education, New Zealand), was appointed Director of Education, Fiji, on 3rd December, and arrived in the Colony to assume the duties of his post on 8th December.

At the present time educational facilities are provided both in the towns and in the more settled country districts for all European pupils. Government and Roman Catholic schools exist in Suva and Levuka, and these, together with the country schools at the four principal sugar centres, provide accommodation for the majority of the European children of school age in the Colony, while European children in isolated places may be enrolled in the Government scheme of correspondence classes. There are three Government schools for European pupils, and these schools are conducted under a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand so that the system of education adopted is practically the same as that in the Dominion. About one-quarter of the total number of pupils on the roll at the grammar schools in Suva are boarders, the boarding fees in respect of each pupil ranging from £40-£50 per annum.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Nearly every village has a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may become enrolled in one of the eight assisted primary schools, or in one of the six Government provincial schools. From these latter schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government scholarships enabling them to continue their studies abroad.

Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were commencing to deal with problems of Fijian and European education, there were no East Indians in the Colony. Now there are approximately 70,000 Indians resident in Fiji. In 1927 there were one Government school, thirty-one assisted primary, twenty-five assisted vernacular, and about twenty private schools for Indians.

There are now altogether sixty-eight Government and assisted schools, eight being for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent, thirty-three for Fijians, twenty-two for Indians and five receiving pupils of various races. They are attended by 5,690 pupils of whom 620 are Europeans, or of European descent, 3,390 are Fijians and others and 1,680 are Indians. The staffs consist of 64 European, 98 Fijian, and 44 Indian teachers. Under the Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance of 1918 there were 646 schools and 1,385 teachers registered in the Colony up to

31st December, 1927. The majority of schools are village schools for Fijians supervised by native teachers who give instruction in the vernacular.

The annual expenditure on education, which was about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, amounted to £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, £31,584 in 1926, and £34,027 in 1927.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered; Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations; New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations; London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations; Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to ninety-nine years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed an Ordinance which provided that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner should pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council could issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually of an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1927 :—

Statement showing total alienation of land in the Colony up to the 31st December, 1927.

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.* *No. of Lots.*	*In process of alienation.* *Estimated Area.*	*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freeholds	1,585	531,345	3	301	531,646	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	296	18,581	75	1,440	20,021	—
Leases of Native Land	6,752	360,957	762	19,917	380,874	—
Total ... ... Acres					932,541	4,523,620

Four hundred and eighty-four applications for leases of native lands aggregating 35,446 acres were received during the year. Of these, 259 applications for 3,333 acres were approved and 95 applications for 4,668 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 82 per cent. of the total. Sixty-three applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 4,979 acres. Of these, 33 applications for 333 acres were approved and 20 for 153 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands, sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration, decreased from 1,643 in 1926 to 1,253 in 1927.

Survey.

The working of the Survey Regulations instituted in 1924 has resulted in a further satisfactory reduction of outstanding surveys and expedition of new work. Four hundred and fifty plans were examined and passed, as compared with seven hundred and forty-five during the corresponding period of 1926.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they may think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands; and to the 31st December, 1927, close on £15,000 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission in 1927 completed investigations in the province of Bua, about half of Macuata, and in the island of Beqa.

During the year the surveyors attached to the Commission operated in the provinces of Rewa, Naitasiri, and Macuata.

The end of the Commission's labours on the two main islands of Vitilevu and Vanualevu is now well within sight.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of a land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is in fact, a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependents from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes :—Agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar-cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4*s*. a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended. They are mostly employed as carpenters, boatbuilders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boatbuilders vary from 7*s*. to 12*s*. a day according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependents. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

The number of Fijians who signed in 1927 agreements to work for employers, in nearly all cases for one year, was approximately 2,300. About 1,000 of these were employed on the plantations of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the majority of the remainder on the copra plantations.

The number of Indians who signed in 1927 agreements to work for employers, in the majority of cases for the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and for six months or the period of the sugar-crushing season, was approximately 1,300.

About 3,000 Indians were employed as labourers by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the majority without written agreements and on conditions allowing of a week's notice on either side, during the cane-planting season. The number during the crushing season increased to about 4,200, including those who worked under written agreement.

It is difficult to summarise information regarding Indian labourers, particularly in respect of wages and cost of living, without risk of misunderstanding. The number of Indians now dependent entirely or even mainly on cash wages is comparatively small and decreasing, and with the general increase in mechanical methods of farming and of handling produce the proportion working as unskilled labourers has also decreased considerably. Even for these, as Indian settlements have extended, the cash wage is almost everywhere supplemented now by the produce of a rice plot or garden patch and of farm stock. The "basic wage," therefore, affects a much smaller proportion than it did formerly.

The actual cash wage paid to unskilled labour by public authorities and big firms in Suva, where rents are high, was raised during the year from 2s. 6d. (fixed in 1922) to 3s. a day for a 48-hour week. The standard in country districts is 2s. a day. Wages of semi-skilled labour run up to 4s. or 5s. a day.

On the estates of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company the basic wage for Indians for field work is 1s. 8d. a day for a task capable of performance by an average labourer in six hours, with an additional bonus of 6d. per week for a full week's work. Labourers have the option of undertaking an extra task or part thereof on completion of their daily task.

Harvest wages are by piece work at a standard rate per ton. It is not uncommon for cane cutters to earn up to 22s. 6d. a week or more.

For ploughmen, stablemen, tractor drivers, etc., special rates are fixed, ranging from 9s. 9d. to 17s. a week, with the additional bonus for a full week's work.

For mill work during the slack season wages range from 10s. to 21s. a week, with the bonus above mentioned. Special workmen receive up to 30s. a week. In the crushing season the basic wage in the mill is 11s. 6d. a week, but a large proportion earn higher rates for special work. Frequent opportunities for earning overtime occur, and in some cases special bonuses for a full week's work are paid, ranging from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. a week.

In addition to these wages and bonuses, men engaging for work throughout the crushing season can earn an extra bonus for mill work of £4 to £4 10s.

The following concessions are also given by the Company—free accommodation, free medical attendance to labourers and their families, and facilities for keeping cows. In addition to this, Indian wage-earners are entitled to buy from the Company's stores for themselves and their families the equivalent of the old standard weekly ration at prices which bring the cost of this down to 3s. a week. As will be seen later, this is equivalent to an addition to the wage for single men of 1s. 4d. a week and more for the man with a family.

Average wages for all classes of labour are of course apt to be misleading, but the Company calculates that during 1927 the average cash wage for agricultural labour was 2s. 1d., and for all other labour 2s. 7¼d. per day, with the addition in the case of a number of workers of the cheap-price concession at the Company's stores.

These current wages may be compared with the information given in the report of the Agent-General for 1914. According to Appendix B of this report the average daily earnings of male Indian indentured labour for all days on which work was actually done was 1s. 1½d., and it is stated in paragraph 60 of this report that the rates for engagements under the Masters and Servants Ordinance for the crushing season in sugar mills varied from 1s. 3d. to 3s. a day, the majority being from 1s. 9d. to 2s. Indian labourers employed on public works in Suva were paid in 1914 at wages varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day.

With regard to fluctuations in the cost of living, materials are available for a comparison of the cost of the old standard weekly ration. This was in 1914 2s. 9½d., in 1920 5s. 6d., and in 1928 (current prices) 4s. 3½d. Taking 1914 prices as 100, the scale rose to 200 in 1920 and has since fallen to 153.

Some statements are also available for the comparison of prices of other necessities, such as clothing, kerosene oil, washing materials, tobacco, and matches. According to figures worked out in 1922, the total cost of the articles listed was 1914 13*s*. 6*d*., 1922 £1 12*s*. 10*d*., and 1928 £1 5*s*. Comparison of these prices by the same method gives 1914 100, 1922 243, 1928 185.

Assuming that the minimum recorded wages in 1914 were for unskilled labour it seems clear from these figures that wages of Indian labourers have kept pace or more than kept pace with the increased cost of living. It is notorious in Fiji that labour of all kinds is scarce and difficult to get even at wages offered. A well-known Indian planter in the neighbourhood of Suva has to pay his workers 10*s*. a week in addition to rations costing 7*s*. 6*d*. a week, and on out-of-the-way plantations where it is impossible to provide a patch for cultivation wages up to 3*s*. a day with free quarters and rations at wholesale prices are supplied.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labour, skilled and unskilled, at present employed under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, is about 1,066. Of these, 620 are employed in the Suva district and 446 in the various country districts. The labour is composed of several nationalities, as set out hereunder :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Indians.*	*Fijians.*	*Others.*
47	54	711	232	22

No race or class distinction is made with regard to labour; Europeans, Indians, Fijians, Chinese, etc., often work together in the same gang and each is paid in accordance with the standard of work done.

Road labourers compose about half the labour force. Of these, 455 are Indians and 52 Fijians. The Fijian does not, as a rule, care for the heavy routine work of repairing roads and it is only in the country districts where Indian labour is scarce that they find employment in this manner. Fijians chiefly find employment in the Works Department as carpenters, boatbuilders, and water transport workers. Indians compose the bulk of unskilled labour on road and quarry works, builders' and dockyard labourers.

Indian labour is scarce throughout the Colony, and as stated elsewhere it is the usual custom for the labouring class of Indian to cultivate a small area of paddy and maize in addition to performing daily work. During the planting and harvesting seasons considerable numbers of labour spend the whole of their time on agriculture, and gangs are depleted. Works, however, are arranged accordingly.

The general rate of wages for unskilled labour in the Suva district is 3*s*. per day of eight hours and 2*s*. 6*d*. in the country. Where Indian labour is scarce in country districts Fijians command a somewhat higher rate. Levuka, for instance, has to pay 4*s*. for Fijians and Taveuni and Vunidawa 3*s*. In other cases the rates are the same for Indians and Fijians, at 2*s*. 6*d*. There are about 640 unskilled labourers employed under the Department. In addition there is a body of about 200 which can only be classed as semi-skilled men earning from 3*s*. 6*d*. up to 6*s*. per day as launch crews, slipway hands, helpers to various trades, timekeepers, painters, etc.

Among the skilled trades it is sometimes difficult to obtain trained men, and comparatively high wages are commanded by good tradesmen. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, blacksmiths, etc.

The half-castes usually find employment in the building trades as carpenters, joiners, and boat-builders.

The wages of skilled workmen vary considerably with the individual standard of skill. There are no fixed rates and no trade unions.

The following figures will give some idea of the current rates :—

Carpenters and Joiners: From 3*s*. 6*d*. up to £1 per day, depending on the degree of skill. Half-caste carpenters from 7*s*. 6*d*. to 16*s*. per day. Fijians can earn up to 12*s*. per day.

Boatbuilders: From 8*s*. up to £1 per day, chiefly half-castes. Semi-skilled Fijians employed in the boat-sheds, from 3*s*. 9*d*. up to 8*s*.

Painters: Usually Indians, 3*s*. 6*d*. per day. Leaders up to 9*s*. per day.

Mechanics: Including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilersmiths, etc., up to £1 per day. Apprentices 5*s*. rising to £2 5*s*. per week. Usually Europeans and half-castes.

Lorry and steam-roller drivers: Chiefly Europeans, 15*s*. to 18*s*. per day. The average wages are about £4 15*s*. per week.

Road Overseers: Chiefly Europeans, £18 to £25 per month.

Road Gang Sirdars: Indians, £4 10*s*. up to £10 8*s*. per month. Average wages £7 per month.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No alteration was made during the year in the administration of Native Affairs, in which the natives themselves take a large share. Under the powers conferred by Native Regulation No. 3 of 1912, District and Provincial Councils make regulations, which are subject to the approval of the Governor, for the good government and welfare of their respective Districts and Provinces. The Great Council of Chiefs advises the Governor on matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijian race and nominates the chiefs from whom the Governor selects the native representatives in the Legislative Council. Native Stipendiary Magistrates adjudicate in the District Courts upon minor infringements of the Native Regulations. Right of appeal lies to the Provincial Court, in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. All graver breaches of Native Regulations are dealt with in Provincial Courts, from which appeal lies to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

The Native Regulations were revised and enlarged by the Native Regulation Board. The Regulations were approved by the Legislative Council in October, 1927, but were not brought into force before the end of the year. The new Regulations embody for the most part the recommendations made by the Great Council of Chiefs in 1926 and also contain additions and amendments which are deemed by the Native Regulation Board to be in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community. The constitution of the Great Council of Chiefs was amended by the reduction of the number of native official members and by the substitution of representatives chosen by the Provincial Councils. Provision was made for the holding of office for three years by selected and nominated members. The constitution of Provincial Councils was amended to provide for the inclusion of representatives selected by District Councils and of not more than five native chiefs to be nominated by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko. The power of voting in Provincial Council was extended to all members, thus assuring a more general representation of native opinion. Amendments were made to ensure the better control of money collected by the natives for purposes of common benefit, to prohibit unauthorised collections among the natives, to provide for the payment of money in lieu of communal services by men absent from their villages, and to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling. Provision was made for the better care of women and children, for the prohibition of irregular unions, and for the control of native women in industrial centres. The privilege of chiefs to demand the personal services of their people was restricted to those chiefs who alone enjoy the hereditary right to such services, and power was retained to the Governor to suspend the privilege in cases of abuse. The procedure for the registration of births and deaths was revised in order to secure effective and correct registration, and a new regulation made for the determination of the legitimacy of native children born in wedlock, in order to ensure that a land-owning tribal unit may be protected from the inclusion amongst its members of children who are in fact illegitimate and have no connection with that tribal unit.

During the first nine months of the year the general health of the natives was satisfactory. In the last three months there was an epidemic of influenza which resulted in a considerable number of deaths. There was an increase for the year of 862 in the native population. The birth-rate was 32.53 and the death-rate 22.98 per thousand. Since the Census of 1921 the Fijian race has increased by 5,788. In addition to the established medical service by which natives receive free medical treatment at provincial and general hospitals and at the hands of native medical practitioners stationed in all the provinces, a vaccination campaign was conducted during the year in which about 40,000 Fijians were vaccinated. A new general hospital at Lautoka, in charge of a European Medical Officer with a staff of two Europeans and five native nurses, was opened to Fijians and the building of a similar hospital at Nadi was commenced. Infant welfare work, under the supervision of a European nurse trained in New Zealand, was started in May amongst the native women and children of Tailevu. Towards the end of the year Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Vice-Consul, offered her services for infant welfare and general medical work amongst the natives residing in the vicinity of Suva. Dr. Roberts had been engaged for some years in similar work in the mandated territory of Western Samoa. This generous offer was gratefully accepted and good results may confidently be expected from the establishment of this important branch of work amongst the natives.

The elementary education of the majority of the Fijians remains largely in the hands of the religious bodies established in the Colony. In practically every village there is a village school conducted by a native teacher. In many places where geographical conditions permit there are group schools employing one or more certificated teachers. At many Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by the European missionary or priest assisted by Mission Sisters. In some provinces there are boarding schools supported by native funds and under the control of the Provincial Commissioner, or Roko. Many of these schools are assisted by money grants from the Government. Six provincial boarding schools have been established from Government and native funds. These schools are under the supervision of European headmasters assisted by a staff of trained native teachers. An annual contribution is made by the natives towards the maintenance expenses of these schools. In addition, there is the Queen

Victoria School, established in 1906, in which higher education is provided for selected pupils from the provincial and Mission schools. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising young Fijians outside the Colony, and four youths received education at Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year. Attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, there is a Medical School where Fijian youths are trained to become native medical practitioners, and Fijian girls to become native obstetric nurses.

In addition to the Government institutions, the missionary bodies in the Colony have several excellent schools and training colleges whose curricula include branches of technical education. An agricultural school for the training of natives in modern methods of cultivation has been established at Navuso by the Methodist Mission with the assistance of a grant from Government funds. Keen interest is taken by the Fijians in all branches of education and progress is only limited by the lack of adequate financial resources.

The great majority of the Fijian population is engaged in agriculture, cultivating their tribal lands on which they plant food crops for their maintenance and for profit. Their crops consist mainly of yams, taro, sweet potatoes, tapioca, plantains, bananas, and pine-apples. Although they use only the simplest of agricultural implements, their planting operations are very successful. As they have as a rule large areas of fertile land at their disposal, they effect the equivalent of rotation of crops by the alternate use of a number of gardens and by permitting the land on which an exhaustive crop has grown to lie fallow for one or two years before a second crop is planted on it. In the cultivation of taro, of which the most common variety requires a constant supply of water, they show considerable engineering skill. Where a running stream or drainage from an elevated swamp is available the surrounding land is terraced with a succession of shallow beds in which the young taro is planted. The water is then led into the highest bed and flows slowly through each succeeding bed until it is drained from the lowest into the parent stream or the sea.

A very large proportion of the bananas exported from the Colony are grown by the Fijians. As all fruit exported is subject to strict inspection by Government Inspectors the standard of quality is high. Native plantations are inspected by officials of the Agricultural Department, who advise the natives on the best methods of cultivation and prevention of disease. The bananas grown by the natives are bought at the various Government packing stations by the exporters and are shipped by them to New Zealand and Australia. A large income is annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

A great many of the natives own coconut groves. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra.

The copra, which is sun-dried, is usually sold to the local storekeeper and later sent to Suva or Levuka for export. A great improvement has taken place during the last year in the health of the coconuts in Vitilevu and its adjacent islands owing to the effective control of the Levuana disease. Now that the fear of destruction of coconuts by this disease has been removed a much increased activity is evident in the planting of this valuable product. Many areas under coconuts in Vitilevu which were formerly regarded as useless are now bearing well, and arrangements have been made in many provinces for a steady and continuous planting of coconuts by the natives. Native coconut groves are inspected by Government Inspectors, who instruct the natives in the proper care of their plantations and in the selection of land for new planting operations. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease will add materially to the prosperity of a large section of the Fijians.

The cultivation of sugar-cane remains largely in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of the East Indian planters, but there is satisfactory evidence of the growth of sugar-cane cultivation amongst the natives. When it is realised that the cultivation of sugar-cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely unknown to the natives, the successful adoption of their use by the more enterprising natives is very encouraging. Although the planting of sugar-cane by the natives has not yet assumed large proportions, a good start has been made and there is every prospect of its extension in the near future.

Most of the work on European-owned coconut plantations is done by natives. Fijians are also almost exclusively employed in the transport of produce by inter-insular vessels. Many of the natives are masters of vessels up to 30 tons and most of the marine engines in these vessels are run by native engineers. Although the Fijians possess little knowledge of navigation, they have a natural aptitude for the sea and are highly successful in navigating their vessels amongst the reefs and shoals which abound amongst the islands. All the loading and unloading of ocean-going vessels is done by Fijians, whose splendid physique makes them particularly suitable for this type of work.

Many of the clerical positions in the Government and in the commercial houses are held by the better educated Fijians. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as carpenters and artisans.

There is evidence of the growing desire amongst the Fijians to take an active part in every branch of industry established in the Colony, and their successful adoption of new methods of production augurs well for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

It is estimated that the Indian population of the Colony, which numbered 60,634 (37,015 males and 23,619 females) in 1921, now amounts to approximately 70,000 (42,000 males and 28,000 females). The recorded birth-rate for the year was 27.72 per thousand and the death-rate 9.42 per thousand. The number of marriages registered under the Marriage Ordinance rose from 195 to 294. This is still less than half the number of registered Fijian marriages, though the populations of the two races are now approaching equality of numbers. Many Indian marriages celebrated by customary rites still remain unregistered and not legally binding. The question of a remedy for this social evil in the form of an amendment of the Marriage Ordinance is now under consideration. The great bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture, but the number engaged in other pursuits is increasing. According to the Census figures of 1921 some 15,000 Indian adults were recorded as agriculturists or cultivators, 4,000 as agricultural labourers, and 1,000 as labourers in various industries. The number of Indian storekeepers in 1920 was 870 and 1,270 in 1924. The number of Indian storekeepers to-day is 1,117. The Chinese are competing keenly with Indians in this branch of trading. The number of Indian motor-car proprietors and drivers in 1921 was 89; this has now risen to 716, and there are now 409 Indian-owned motor-cars as compared with 172 in 1924.

Figures showing the actual acreage of agricultural land held by Indians are not available, but during the past seven years fresh leases by Fijian owners have averaged 2,000 acres and renewals of leases 1,000. The total number of Indian holdings of all sorts is estimated to be approximately 7,500. In addition, Indians hold some 24,500 acres as tenants of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited. The sugar industry in the Colony is now entirely controlled by this Company, which actually cultivates less than one-third of the area planted. Out of a total area under sugar of approximately 78,000 acres, 29,000 acres are in the hands of outside cultivators not bound by agreement to plant for the Company, 24,500 acres, as stated, are held by its tenants, and only 24,500 acres are cultivated by the Company itself. A considerable area in the north-east corner of Vitilevu has recently been taken over by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, from the Penang Sugar Company, Limited. This has been let out almost entirely to Indian farmers in 10-acre farms. Competition for the farms is keen, and although the Company's tenants have to conform with restrictions as to cropping and rotation there can be no doubt that these are in the best interests of the tenants and that the standard of cultivation is maintained at a much higher level by this means than would be otherwise possible. The leasing of the Company's area in small farms is still proceeding, and it seems probable that in the near future the Company will retain in its own hands sufficient land only for experimental purposes and certain areas which require organised drainage on a scale beyond the resources of small farmers.

The other main crops grown by Indian farmers are : rice (6,000 acres), cotton (1,000 acres), maize (2,500 acres), and *arhar dal*, and, also, in the neighbourhood of Suva and other centres fairly large areas of kava or yaqona, Fiji root crops, and pine-apples. A decreasing area is under bananas.

Though the rice crop is a large and important one and nearly all Indian farmers endeavour to grow some rice for domestic consumption, the Colony is not yet self-supporting in respect of this commodity, and much still remains to be done to organise effective control of surface water on the bigger rice flats.

The cotton industry is at present in the experimental stage, and there seems reason to anticipate that the area sown will always fluctuate in accordance with the vicissitudes of the seasons. In favourable seasons, in suitable localities the crop will yield a good return but the small farmers do not seem inclined to devote more land to it than can be managed and harvested by their own households. The establishment of the industry on a firm basis will, however, undoubtedly add considerably to the resources of the Indian colonists.

Maize is widely grown but, except in favourable circumstances, it is not a crop easily marketed.

The *arhar dal* crop is important, as adding to the supplies of pulses and improving the soil, but it is liable to suffer considerably in wet seasons from insect pests. The possibility of giving it increased protection seems worth investigating.

Few Indians have taken up dairying work on any scale. Small supplies of ghee are produced locally, and cows are cheaply purchased and pasturage can be leased at low rentals. Considerable supplies, however, both of ghee and edible oils are still imported from India.

The questions of amendments in the method of representation of Indians on the Legislative Council and the Municipal Councils are now receiving attention. The possibility of the better adaptation of the Residential Tax Ordinance to Indian circumstances is also under consideration.

With the arrival of the permanent Director of Education there is every prospect of further developments in the educational facilities provided for Indians of all classes. In view of the limited financial resources of the Colony, progress will depend to a large extent on the possibility of devising a scheme for meeting a proportion of cost by means of education rates on Indians themselves. Fiji education is already largely financed in this way. The Colonial Board of Education has been reconstituted and Indians have full representation thereon.

The repatriation vessel for the year, the s.s. "Ganges," arrived in January with over 500 passengers on board, including a number of cases of smallpox, and was detained in quarantine for over five weeks. The consequent detention of the repatriates collected in the depot at Suva awaiting return to India resulted in their becoming infected with measles, and the vessel arrived at Calcutta on her return voyage to India with 53 cases on board. The Government Emigration Agent reported that, owing to lack of adequate provision for quarantine at Calcutta, he had considerable difficulty in dealing with the emergency.

The repatriates numbered : adults 701 and children 281. Apart from nearly £10,000 remitted through banks, they took back approximately £35,000, or an average of £50 per adult. Comparative figures are only available for the years 1923, 1925, and 1926, and in those years Fiji repatriates took back on the average one child to each two adults and £44 per adult. For other Colonies the average is only one child to three adults and £22 per adult. The difference in favour of Fiji is marked and seems worthy of record. It may also be noted that considerable sums are deposited in Fiji each year by the Indian colonists here for the introduction of relatives from India. In the year under report £1,865 was deposited for about 100 persons.

Numbers of those repatriated repent of their decision to return to their native land, and during the year arrangements were made to re-introduce some who were anxious to return under a scheme financed from the accumulated balances to the credit of the old Immigration Fund. It remains to be seen whether this experiment will prove successful, but a risk exists in schemes of this nature of the idea receiving encouragement that those entitled to repatriation can enjoy a free trial trip to India with the prospect of being brought back again at Government expense if they find conditions in India uncongenial. It would not be in the true interests of the colonists themselves to encourage the idea. Repatriation at the best entails the breaking up of the Fiji home and the disposal of property, frequently at a loss and the severing of old ties.

The Colony is becoming reconciled now to the cessation of organised immigration, and looks to the natural increase in population and the private enterprise of the classes in India which have learnt that there is a career open to them overseas. The flow of immigrants belonging to these classes from the Punjab seems increasing, and many of them develop into energetic and enterprising colonists. It is significant that the last direct vessel from India brought, in addition to agriculturists, 22 bootmakers, 18 barbers, 37 traders, 53 tailors, 17 laundrymen, and 16 jewellers. The number of tradesmen of these classes which the Colony can absorb is, of course, limited.

It is not altogether easy to make out why the impression still prevails that the Indian population in Fiji is in a depressed state, economically hard-pressed and suffering from a number of unremedied grievances. In a way it would be more correct to say that the immediate problem is that of assisting a community which has risen rapidly in material prosperity, to consolidate the advance made and prepare the way for future progress.

There is little or no poverty among the Indian colonists. The great bulk of them are comfortably off. Even for the poorest actual subsistence is assured. Root crops can be grown for almost nothing, and dairy cattle and poultry are cheap and cost practically nothing to keep.

The country is undulating and well watered and presents few large-scale drainage and water supply problems, and there exists almost everywhere on the fringe of cultivation plenty of good land for grazing and awaiting development.

It was stated in the report of last year that the relations between the different sections were amicable. There have been some signs of friction recently, due to the tendency to focus progress first in the sectional field, but the great bulk of the population is unaffected and seems determined to preserve the old relations, without which it is impossible for this community, minute as it is according to Indian standards, to combine for its own advancement and co-operate with the Government and others willing and able to help it to take its place with the two other communities as a permanent element and one essential to the future prosperity of the Colony.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20.30 and 03.30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° Fah. and Mean Sea-Level was 29.918″; the highest recorded being 30.190″ on 5th July and the lowest 29.567″ on 10th February.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest readings and the dates of their occurrences :—

Months.	*Monthly Means.*	*Highest Recorded.*	*Date.*	*Lowest Recorded.*	*Date*
January	29·810″	29·991″	2nd	29·579″	31st
February... ...	29·821″	29·986″	25th	29·567″	10th
March	29·898″	30·025″	12th	29·756″	30th
April	29·900″	30·028″	10th	29·784″	16th
May	29·929″	30·061″	7th	29·686″	25th
June	29·996″	30·118″	25th	29·847″	7th
July	29·996″	30·190″	5th	29·844″	11th
August	29·981″	30·098″	6th	29·861″	24th
September ...	30·019″	30·165″	29th	29·890″	5th
October	29·981″	30·126″	20th	29·812″	6th
November ...	29·875″	30·073″	3rd	29·720″	26th
December ...	29·814″	29·956″	6th	29·700″	18th

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 78.6° Fah., the highest recorded being 97° on 29th December, and the lowest 63° on 13th and 24th July.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 79.4, the greatest amount, namely, 100 per cent., being recorded on the following dates: 12th January and 19th August, and the lowest recorded being 53 per cent on 14th July and 27th August.

The following table gives the mean monthly temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentages of relative humidity and the highest and lowest recorded, with the dates of their occurrences during each month of the year.

Months.	*Temperature in Shade.*					*Humidity 100 = Saturation.*				
	Mean.	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*	*Mean.*	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*
						%	%		%	
January	79·9°	91°	14th 28th	70°	8th	82·2	100	12th	57	2nd
February	80·9°	91°	1st	71°	3rd	79·1	98	10th	61	21st
March ...	82·3°	92°	11th 21st	73°	4th 7th 21st 27th	74·8	97	6th	59	31st
April ...	81·3°	91°	7th 13th	71°	21st 23rd	78·5	96	8th	59	25th
May ...	78·7°	90°	8th	69°	17th 25th 28th	81·6	96	22nd 24th	59	17th
June ...	75·9°	88°	16th	65°	9th 12th	80·1	96	19th	58	4th
July ...	75·2°	88°	29th	63°	13th 24th	77·1	94	2nd	53	14th
August ...	75·7°	88°	30th	66°	4th	81·5	100	19th	53	27th
September	76·2°	84°	17th 18th 23rd	64°	6th	77·6	95	22nd	54	8th
October ...	76·6°	87°	24th	67°	8th	80·2	96	28th	60	9th
November	78·3°	88°	10th 15th 16th	68°	28th	81·2	96	22nd	62	28th
December	81·3°	97°	29th	72°	1st 4th	78·8	97	21st	60	5th

Rainfall, Winds, etc.—The table overleaf gives the rainfall for 1927 at Suva together with the number of wind observations, hail, thunderstorms, gales, etc., for each month of the year. The total amount of rainfall for January, viz., 31.61 inches, is the highest on record for this month during the last 43 years.

Months.	*Rainfall.*			*Weather.* *No. of days of*								*Wind.* *Number of Observations of ·*																	
	Total.	*Max.*	*Date.*	*Rain.*	*Hail.*	*Thunder-storms.*	*Clear Sky.*		*Overcast.*		*Gales.*	*N.*		*N.E.*		*E.*		*S.E.*		*S.*		*S.W.*		*W.*		*N.W.*		*Calms.*	
							8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	—	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30
January ...	31·61	8·49	11	27	—	5	1	1	20	23	—	2	1	2	1	9	8	4	9	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	2	8	2
February ...	14·10	5·74	9	24	—	2	3	1	7	14	1	—	—	3	2	9	9	1	9	1	3	2	2	2	2	—	—	10	1
March ...	4·48	1·10	26	20	—	6	3	4	1	7	—	6	2	5	3	7	15	1	5	1	2	1	—	2	2	1	2	7	—
April ...	10·46	4·31	16	25	—	6	5	2	8	9	—	5	1	5	2	7	14	2	7	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	10	1
May	8·17	2·32	22	18	—	1	4	—	11	17	—	3	2	5	3	6	9	3	8	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	13	3
June	9·91	2·47	28	18	—	2	4	3	13	11	1	—	1	3	4	6	12	5	7	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	12	2
July	3·47	1·15	31	19	—	—	4	6	13	9	—	2	1	7	5	8	7	6	10	1	5	—	2	1	1	—	—	6	—
August ...	9·14	3·10	31	23	—	1	1	2	16	16	—	5	—	5	4	6	9	5	11	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	8	4
September ...	7·13	2·15	22	21	—	1	1	1	17	13	—	3	—	3	2	12	11	7	13	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	1
October ...	17·93	4·47	29	22	—	2	1	1	17	20	—	1	—	3	3	12	12	7	13	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	6	—
November ...	15·38	2·27	17	29	—	3	1	1	15	20	—	2	2	3	3	10	8	9	14	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
December ...	17·39	2·37	20	27	—	7	4	1	6	11	—	3	6	4	2	8	8	4	11	5	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Year ...	149·17	—	—	273	—	36	32	23	144	170	2	32	16	48	34	100	122	54	117	17	32	11	15	10	10	5	5	88	14

The average rainfall in the wet and dry districts as shown by observations taken at different stations over a period of years as stated in the following table are as follows :—

Wet Districts.				*Dry Districts.*			
No. of Years.	*Station.*	*Province.*	*Average Yearly Rainfall.*	*No. of Years.*	*Station.*	*Province.*	*Average Yearly Rainfall.*
48	Wainunu ...	Bua ...	149·05	6	Narovurovu	Ba	89·68
21	Valeci ...	Cakaudrove	101·03	33	Rarawai ...	" ...	81·87
8	Vuna ...	" ...	119·23	25	Lautoka ...	" ...	68·70
18	Waiyevo ...	" ...	101·18	32	Munia ...	Lau ...	69·77
22	Rabi ...	" ...	145·71	5	Nabavatu ...	" ...	77·60
15	Vunidawa ...	Colo East ...	142·86	4	Lakeba ...	" ...	73·64
27	Nadarivatu	Colo North	125·92	26	Navo ...	Nadi ...	63·99
11	Naitonitoni	Serua ...	130·57	2	Richmond ...	Kadavu ...	56·60
33	Nausori ...	Tailevu ...	114·26	20	Lawaqa ...	Nadroga ...	67·61
4	Wainivesi ...	" ...	160·11	1	Sigatoka ...	" ...	64·48
23	Rotuma ...	Rotuma ...	139·04	12	Buca Bay ...	Cakaudrove	95·72
1	Navuso ...	Rewa ...	126·76	13	Makogai ...	Lomaiviti ...	81·63
43	Suva ...	" ...	117·06	33	Levuka ...	" ...	91·81
8	Burenitu ...	Ra	101·37	30	Labasa ...	Macuata .	98·32

Thus the wet district average is 126.73″ and the dry 77.24″, but it must be taken into consideration that the heaviest rainfall takes place during the hurricane season, viz., November to April both inclusive. During these months the precipitation in 1927 was 62 per cent. of the total rainfall for the year. For the dry district the heaviest rainfall is also within the same period but the precipitation is greater, being in 1927 equal to 72 per cent. of the annual fall. It will be readily seen, therefore, that the difference between the season is much more distinctly marked in the dry district, with the consequence that the planters vary considerably their methods of cultivation in the two districts.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Thirty-three Ordinances were passed during the year 1927. Of these the most important were :—

No. 1. *The Destruction of Bank Vouchers Ordinance* 1927, which permits a bank to destroy old cheques, drafts, and bills of exchange after the expiration of 10 years from the date of such documents if payable on demand and from the due date thereof in the case of all other documents. No such documents shall be destroyed after a demand for the delivery of such documents has been made to the bank by the person entitled thereto.

No. 2. The Passports Ordinance 1927 provides for the production of passports by all persons landing in the Colony. Power is reserved to the Governor to exempt persons from this requirement. A person landing contrary to the Ordinance is guilty of an offence and the master or agent of the ship from which he landed is liable to all expenses incurred by Government in detaining and maintaining such person pending deportation.

No. 3. The Live Stock Record Association Ordinance 1927 provides for the formation of the Fiji Live Stock Record Association to encourage the breeding of pure-bred domestic animals, and other purposes.

Nos. 5 and 17 amend the Vaccination Ordinance 1888. Any Government Medical Officer may vaccinate any person arriving in the Colony. Every unvaccinated adult of whatever race shall upon being notified to do so attend an appointed place to be vaccinated.

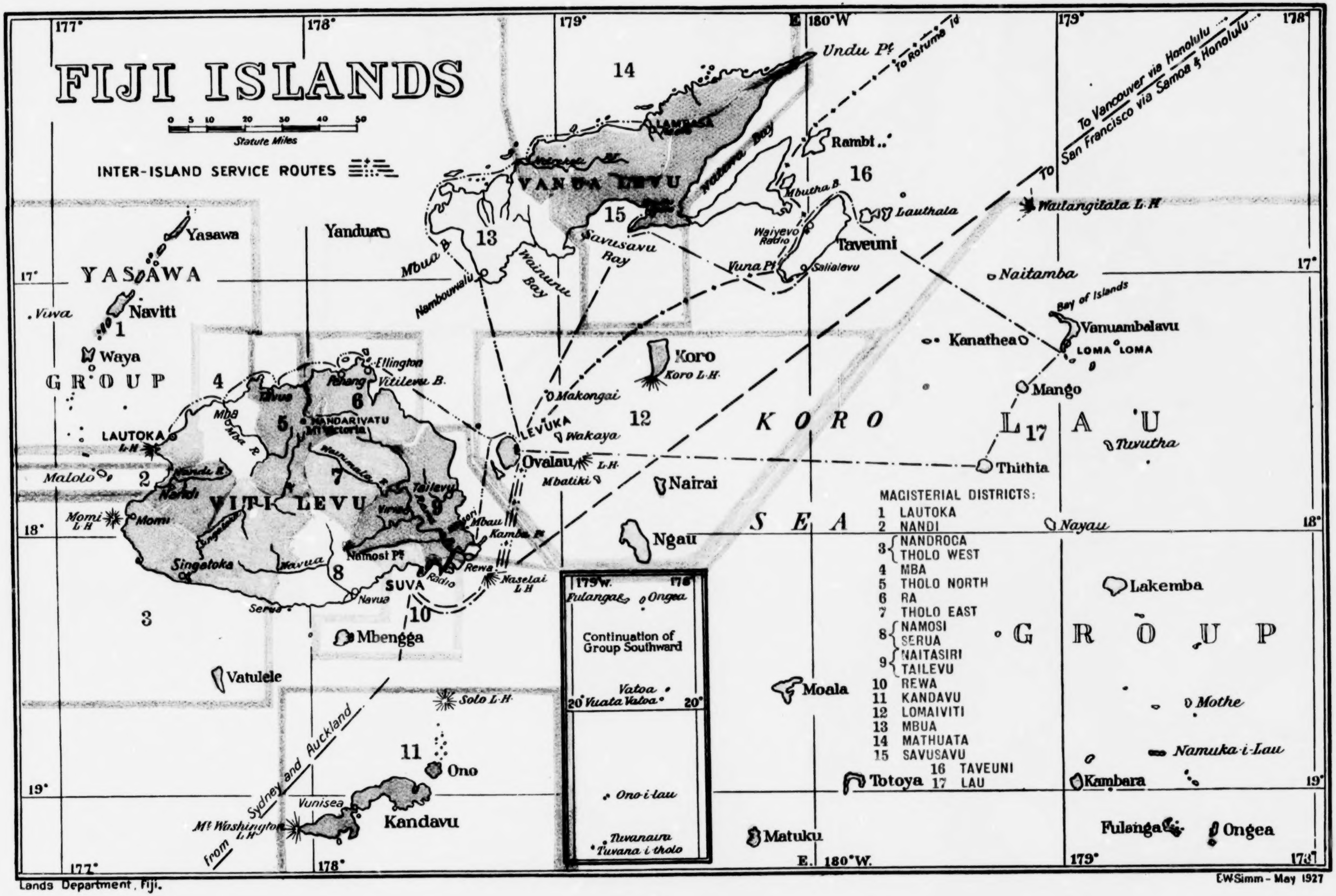
No. 9 makes provision for Courts in Rotuma and empowers the Rotuma Regulation Board to make regulations subject to the approval of Legislative Council. The Rotuma Ordinance 1882 is repealed.

No. 10. The Rotuma Native Dealings Ordinance 1927 repeals a similar Ordinance of 1895. Certain contracts between natives and non-natives are not enforceable unless registered by the Resident Commissioner, who has power to refuse to register the contract. A contract not to be fully performed on both sides within one year shall not be registered without the approval of the Governor-in-Council.

No. 31. The Fruit Export Amendment Ordinance 1927 empowers the Governor to prescribe areas in which it shall be unlawful for any person to purchase for export bananas grown by Fijians unless he has a banana-buyer's licence. Licences may be issued on such terms and conditions as the Governor-in-Council may prescribe.

No. 32. The Copra Ordinance 1927 requires an exporter of copra to have a licence for the purpose. The Ordinance provides for the grading of copra for export and generally for the improvement of the quality of copra exported.

(2973–21) Wt. 13563–1009 575 11/28 P. St. G. 7/8


FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Statute Miles
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
177°
178°
179°
180°W
179°
178°
17°
18°
19°
Undu Pt
To Rotuma Id
To Vancouver via Honolulu
To San Francisco via Samoa & Honolulu
14
LAMBASA
VANUA LEVU
Natewa Bay
Rambi
16
Mbutha B.
Lauthala
Wailangilala L.H
15
Savusavu Bay
Waiyevo Radio
Taveuni
Vuna Pt
Salialevu
13
Mbua B.
Nambouwalu
Wainunu Bay
Yandua
Yasawa
YASAWA
Naviti
Vuwa
1
Waya
GROUP
4
Ellington
Vitilevu B.
6
Mba
Mba R.
5
NANDARIVATU
Mt Victoria
LAUTOKA
L.H
Malolo
2
Nandi
7
Tailevu
9
VITI LEVU
Momi L.H
Momi
Singatoka
Navua
8
Namosi Pt
Mbau
Kamba Pt
SUVA
Radio
Rewa
Naselai L.H
Navua
Serua
3
10
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H
11
Ono
Vunisea
Kandavu
Mt Washington L.H
from Sydney and Auckland
Makongai
LEVUKA
Wakaya
Ovalau
L.H
Mbatiki
12
Koro
Koro L.H
Nairai
Ngau
KORO SEA
Naitamba
Bay of Islands
Vanuambalavu
Kanathea
LOMA LOMA
Mango
LAU
17
Tuvutha
Thithia
Nayau
Lakemba
GROUP
Mothe
Namuka-i-Lau
Kambara
Fulanga
Ongea
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
179°W.
178°
Fulanga
Ongea
Continuation of Group Southward
Vatoa
20
Vuata Vatoa
20°
Ono-i-lau
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo
E. 180°W.
179°
178°
177°
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS:
1 LAUTOKA
2 NANDI
3 NANDROGA, THOLO WEST
4 MBA
5 THOLO NORTH
6 RA
7 THOLO EAST
8 NAMOSI, SERUA
9 NAITASIRI, TAILEVU
10 REWA
11 KANDAVU
12 LOMAIVITI
13 MBUA
14 MATHUATA
15 SAVUSAVU
16 TAVEUNI
17 LAU

Lands Department, Fiji.

E.W.Simm - May 1927

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FIJI.

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

PREFATORY NOTE.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About 80 islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti, and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands there are hot springs, the best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina river, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is thus a well-protected waterway.

HISTORICAL.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under consideration by research students, and until their investigations are complete the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. The latest discovery of a hidden shoal was made by H.M.S. *Laburnum* in September, 1928.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter*, of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missioners established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required" was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "Acknowledged, ratified and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession, dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.*

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community ; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased to three ; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six ; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.*

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* New Letters Patent were issued on the 9th February, 1929, and came into force on the 1st May, 1929.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorised to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. There is a suitable station and up-to-date plant, including a Dennis turbine motor engine of recent pattern.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

LANGUAGES.

English is spoken by the 4,500 Europeans resident in the Colony. The estimated Fijian population is 90,000. Many native dialects are spoken, but the majority of Fijian male adults and a large proportion of the women are also acquainted with the Bauan dialect, which has been adopted as the official Fijian language. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 70,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,000 speaks Cantonese.

CURRENCY.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which with the Government currency notes issue is the legal tender of the Colony.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., returned from leave on the 14th April, 1928, and resumed the Administration from that date. During his absence Mr. A. W. Seymour, V.D., acted as Governor.

Several important changes of personnel took place in 1928. Mr. P. A. McElwaine, B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., was appointed Attorney-General and arrived in the Colony from Kenya in January : Mr. P. F. Boyd, formerly of Northern Rhodesia, was appointed Colonial Postmaster and arrived in the Colony in March.

Mr. I. McOwan represented Fiji at the Empire Forestry Conference held at Canberra in June. Dr. J. D. Tothill, Superintendent of Agriculture, and all the Entomologists of the Agricultural Department were absent from the Colony during part of the year engaged in special researches.

On his return to the Colony in April His Excellency the Governor entered into occupation of the new Government House. The new building, which is of reinforced concrete, replaces the wooden structure which was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire in 1921.

The event of the year which perhaps created the greatest interest and even excitement among all races in the Colony was the landing in Albert Park, Suva, of Captain Kingsford Smith in his triple-engined Fokker airplane, the "Southern Cross." The machine arrived in Suva from Honolulu on the conclusion of the second of the three stages of its Trans-Pacific flight on 5th June, and left on 8th June from Naselai Beach, some miles east of Suva, on the final stage of the flight to Brisbane.

Visitors to the Colony during the year included Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair, K.C.B., Governor of New South Wales, and also Major R. D. Furse, D.S.O., of the Colonial Office staff and Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., Forestry Commission, *en route* to the Imperial Forestry Conference held at Canberra.

Prince Takamatsu, brother of the Emperor of Japan, visited the Colony in August, as an officer of H.I.J.M.S. *Yakumo*, a unit of the Japanese Training Squadron which made a three days' stay in the port of Suva during that month.

Sir Maui Pomare, Minister of Health for New Zealand, and Minister for the Cook Islands, visited the Group in connection with a proposed arrangement now completed under which the leper settlement at Makogai receives patients from New Zealand and the majority of the Administrations of the Western Pacific.

Sessions of the Legislative Council were held on the 21st February, the 1st June, the 24th August, and the 9th November. A list of the more important Ordinances passed will be found under Heading XV.

New Native Regulations came into force on the 5th September. Reference is made to these elsewhere in the Report under the headings "Justice" and "Native Affairs."

The Municipal Franchise Committee was appointed in 1927 with the main object of making recommendations as to the extension or otherwise of the voting privileges possessed by Indian ratepayers in the towns of Suva and Levuka in regard to the election of members of the Municipal Councils. A Majority Report was issued in December of that year, a Minority Report signed by the Indian members of the Committee in January, 1928, and a separate Minority Report in February by the Secretary for Indian Affairs. As the Minority Report of the Indian members contained certain allegations and statements of grievances of Indians, His Honour the Chief Justice of the Colony, Sir A. K. Young, K.C., was appointed a Special Commissioner to enquire into the truth of the allegations.

The trade of the Colony during 1928 was satisfactory and shows an increase both in respect of imports and exports over that of 1927. The value of exports exceeded the value of imports by over one million pounds sterling, and the value of exports during 1928 exceeded the value of the 1927 exports by over £700,000.

The sugar export figures are remarkable, as a result of the very good crop of 1927. The 1928 crop was not so large but of greater sugar content and a heavy yield of sugar is anticipated. Crushing in 1928 was continued until 14th December. The tendency, remarked upon in last year's report, for exports of sugar to go to Canada rather than to New Zealand, is more pronounced, the figures for 1928 being :—to Canada 65.86 per cent., to New Zealand 23.02 per cent., and to Great Britain 10.25 per cent.

The year 1928 was the most prosperous in the history of the Colony. For the third time the total trade exceeded four million pounds, and the revenue far exceeded that of any previous year. It is important to note that the trade for the year 1928 resulted in a far wider and better distribution of income than did the trade of the years 1920 and 1921, the two previous years in which the total trade of the Colony exceeded four million pounds. During the years 1923–28, while there have been fluctuations, progress has been steadily in an upward direction in respect of most of the main exports of the Colony, and it is to the cumulative effect of this progress that the improvement in the Colony's financial position (dealt with under Section II—Finance) is to be attributed. The financial policy of the Government during the last seven years has been directed to paying off a deficit of a quarter of a million pounds which had accumulated during the post-war slump ; to establishing reserves wherewith to meet emergencies (such as a serious hurricane) should they occur ; and to building up and expanding Public Services. These objects were achieved by the end of the year 1928, and the Colony can now face the future with every confidence.

Agriculture, dealt with in greater detail in this report under its appropriate head, continues to be economically the backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the leading crop, after which come, in order of value, coconuts and bananas, dairying and cattle breeding. Cotton, pine-apples, maize, and rice, the two last named for local consumption, are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, but cotton growing is a recent revival. Pine-apple canning and dairying are innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having to diversify its agricultural products on short notice. A meat-canning factory commenced operations early in the year. There is a considerable demand for canned meat both within the Colony and throughout the Islands of the Western Pacific, and there are possibilities of considerable development in this infant industry.

In last year's Report the following reference was made to the campaign to control the purple moth *Levuana iridescens* :—

> " The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Levuana iridescens*, appears to have met with complete success, and confidence has been restored among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites from the Federated Malay States and Java the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely. The final position will not be known for at least another year, but it is now probable that sufficient parasites have been introduced to effect a permanent control of the pest.

> In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign will not only permit coconuts to be grown on the largest island, Vitilevu, but will also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the South Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence."

It is now possible to say that the campaign has met with complete success and that the insect is no longer a serious pest of coconut trees. The services of the Entomologists of the Agricultural Department have consequently been utilized mainly for the campaign which aims at controlling by biological means the coconut scale *Aspidiotus destructor*. The more important insects that feed upon this scale have been imported through the efforts of the Coconut Committee, from Java and from the West Indies. Of the insects imported, the Coccinellid Beetle (*Cryptogonatha nodiceps*) stands out as being likely to bring about an economic control of the scale. During the year this insect has been bred at Levuka and has been distributed widely throughout the scale-infested parts of the Colony. At those places at which it was first liberated, it has now increased very rapidly and has, in all cases, brought about a local control. There are now reasons for hoping that this local control may gradually extend throughout all those parts of the Colony in which the scale occurs. In view of the fact that this scale insect was responsible for reducing considerably the output of copra from the southern coast of Vanualevu and from certain islands including Wakaya, Koro, and Gau, it is satisfactory to be able to record that substantial progress towards control appears to have been achieved.

The increase in the tourist traffic was maintained. The following figures show the steady increase of the number of passengers arriving from overseas at all Fiji ports :—

1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
2,437	3,722	3,980	4,455

Deducting 20 per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,564 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of some 1,610 on the figure for 1925.

The growth of the tourist traffic is due mainly to improved facilities for travelling to the islands, to the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, to the provision of increased facilities for sport in Suva, and to the issue of advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local Tourist Bureau.

The Fourth Annual Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural, and Industrial Show, held in October, 1928, conducted under the auspices of the Fiji Show Association, eclipsed all previous efforts. The entries totalled 1,794, an increase on the previous year of 210 and nearly 800 more than the first Show in 1925. The financial results were satisfactory and a reserve fund of over £400 has placed the Fiji Show Association in a sound position. In connection with the Health Exhibit, inaugurated by the Health Department, a Baby Show was held on the second day. This was a new feature and proved to be a successful and popular event.

Great interest was shown in the Live Stock Section and it is claimed that the Annual Show is, to a considerable extent, responsible for the marked improvement noticeable in recent years in the class of horses and cattle found in the Colony, many pedigree animals having been imported into Fiji during the past four years. The Show was open for two days and the number of visitors exceeded 5,000. The quality of the exhibits all round marked a yet further advance on that of previous Shows and is very encouraging for the future.

The estimated population of Fiji and Rotuma combined on the 31st December, 1928, was 176,793. Of this number 91,028 were Fijians and 70,996 were Indians, comprising 51.50 per cent. and 40.15 per cent. respectively of the total population. The remaining 8.35 per cent. was made up of 4,591 Europeans, 2,260 Rotumans, 2,230 other Polynesians, 3,194 Half-castes, 1,352 Chinese, and 1,142 others.

These figures compared with the 1921 Census Returns show that the population has increased during the last seven years by 19,527, an aggregate rate of increase of 12.41 per cent. The following is a table analysing the estimated increase of population since the last Census taken in 1921 :—

Class of Population.	1921 *Census.*	*Estimated* 31.12.28.	*Increase.*	*Per cent.*
Europeans	3,878	4,591	713	18.38
Half-castes	2,781	3,194	413	14.85
Fijians	84,475	91,028	6,553	7.75
Polynesians	1,564	2,230	666	42.58
Indians	60,634	70,996	10,362	17.09
Rotumans	2,235	2,260	25	1.12
Chinese	910	1,352	442	48.57
Others	789	1,142	353	44.74
	157,266	176,793	19,527	12.41

The population of Native Rotumans, although showing a slight increase, may be said to be stationary. These interesting Polynesian people live in a small self-contained group of islands, some 220 miles north-north-west of Fiji. The sex constitution of their population shows a more satisfactory balance than that existing in Fiji, and the numbers of the population have varied little during the last fifty years. The estimated number of Rotumans on 31st December, 1928, shows that the total decrease since the date on which the first Census was taken (1881) amounts to 192. Rotuma lies well outside the established trade routes and consequently its population is not appreciably affected by migration.

The distribution of the population on the 31st December, 1928, was Fiji, 174,391 ; Rotuma, 2,402. There were 23.50 persons to the square mile in Fiji and 171.57 persons to the square mile in Rotuma. The average birth-rate per thousand of the total population for the year 1928 was 33.05, and the average death-rate per thousand of the total population for the year 1928 was 18.65. The following table shows the average birth- and death-rates per thousand for the years 1924 to 1928 ;—

Class of population.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*					*Death-rate per 1,000.*				
	1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
Europeans ...	33.81	16.68	18.16	24.78	17.42	10.44	9.08	9.32	9.60	7.62
Half-castes ...	24.06	29.65	31.91	23.08	32.56	4.40	7.33	12.69	7.37	9.39
Fijians ...	34.42	32.29	33.95	32.53	33.36	22.70	22.75	23.09	22.98	24,95
Indians ...	34.32	33.14	32.65	27.72	34.0	5.80	7.25	8.26	9.42	10.80
Rotumans ...	44.49	56.97	48.95	50.47	52.21	42.20	64.38	28.29	36.29	51.77

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the last five years :—

Class of Population.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
Europeans	24	28	38	34	47
Half-castes...	33	22	14	16	41
Fijians	701	857	708	760	906
Indians	182	174	195	254	276
Rotumans	39	23	37	28	11

An interesting comparison of the population at the Census of 24th April, 1921, and of the estimated population at the end of 1928 is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.	Whites. Males.	Whites. Females.	Coloured Population. Males.	Coloured Population. Females.	Total. Males.	Total. Females.	Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.	Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in Agriculture.	Persons employed in Manufactures and Industrial.	Persons employed in Professional and Commercial.	Births. Number and Rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.															
Europeans Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—		3,878	—	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—
Europeans Rotuma	14	23	7	—	—										
Half-castes Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304		2,781	—	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—
Half-castes Rotuma	—	—	—	29	23										
Fijians	—	—	—	44,022	40,453		84,475	—	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—
Indians	—	—	—	37,015	23,619		60,634	—	8·17	19,4[illegible]3	3,179	1,244	—	—	—
Polynesians	—	—	—	1,271	293		1,564	—	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	—	—	—	1,129	1,106		2,235	—	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	—	—	—	845	65		910	—	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	431	358		789	—	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—
Totals ...	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221		157,266	—	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1928.															
													Number. Rate.		*Number. Rate.*
Europeans Fiji ...	—	2,488	2,081	—	—		4,569	Nil	·62	—	—	—	80—17·42	47	35—7·62
Europeans Rotuma	—	11	11	—	—		22								
Half-castes Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,642	1,516		3,158	Do.	·43	—	—	—	104—32·56	41	30—9·39
Half-castes Rotuma	—	—	—	23	13		36								
Fijians	—	—	—	46,925	44,103		91,028	Do.	12·24	—	—	—	3,037—33·36	906	2,272—24·95
Polynesians	—	—	—	1,754	476		2,230	Do.	·30	—	—	—	62—27·80	14	68—30·49
Indians	—	—	—	42,582	28,414		70,996	Do.	9·55	—	—	—	2,414—34·00	276	767—10·80
Rotumans (Rotuma)	—	—	—	1,100	1,160		2,260	Do.	161·43	—	—	—	118—52·21	11	117—51·77
Chinese	—	—	—	1,258	94		1,352	Do.	·18	—	—	—	18—13·31	—	7—5·17
Others ... Fiji ...	—	—	—	684	374		1,058	Do.	·15	—	—	—	10—8·75	9	2—1·75
Others ... Rotuma	—	—	—	60	24		84								
Totals ...	7,435	2,499	2,092	96,028	76,174		—	—	23·78	—	—	—	5,843—33·05	1,304	3,298—18·65
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—		176,793	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1924 ...	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515	—
1925 ...	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453	—
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1928 an accumulated surplus of £158,428. From this, it will be seen that during the years mentioned the very satisfactory improvement in the Colony's position of £401,909 was effected. These figures are, however, exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of 1928 at £104,000 —an improvement in this case of £29,718.

An item in the Colony's Balance Sheet which appears both as an asset and a liability is the before-mentioned Immigration Fund of £104,000. Except for the fact that this sum is earmarked for a specific purpose, it is a free asset, which, added to the shown surplus of assets over liabilities of £158,428, makes the Colony's available accumulated funds on Revenue Account £262,428.

During the year 1928 a windfall occurred, owing to the refund from Loan Account to Revenue of £33,000, but even deducting this, the total revenue for the year 1928 far exceeded that of any previous year. While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied during the last seven or eight years, and placed upon a wider and more equitable basis, only a slight increase has been introduced, yet not only has the financial position been consolidated, and satisfactory reserves accumulated, but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which must directly affect the welfare and prosperity of the Colony, and to combat and defeat a grave menace which, at one time, threatened one of the principal industries of the Colony.

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression is due, firstly to drastic retrenchment, secondly to revival of the main industries, and, thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency

Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	431,583
Assets :—	
Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	86,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1928)	371,198
Depreciation Fund Investments	30,476
	£488,155

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1928, £56,572.

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1928 produced a net surplus of £12,865, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		17,478
Expenses	901	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,712	
		4,613
Surplus		£12,865

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was as under :—

	£
Public Works Loan	74,700
Consolidated and Funding Loan	765,000
Total ...	£839,700

Early in January, 1929, however, the Public Works Loan was redeemed, leaving the public debt of the Colony at £765,000. This loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent., and being issued at 101. Within five minutes of the opening of the list no less than £7,727,100 was tendered. The terms of this issue and the response thereto are matters upon which the Colony may well be congratulated, showing as they do that in the London money market the financial position of Fiji is regarded as unusually sound.

A further loan of £170,000 has been arranged for. This will be in the form of a direct loan, which the Crown Agents for the Colonies have agreed to provide.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,500,000, while that of the latter is £6,771,198. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,200,580 and by the Bank of New Zealand £373,861.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 5,986 to 6,918 while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £141,686 to £158,202. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £16,516 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1927.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1928, was £175,351 as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1928)	175,015	
Cash in hand	6,188	
		181,203
Surplus		£5,852

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1928 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment ...		7,434
Interest credited to Depositors ...	5,047	
Salaries	1,214	
Expenses	336	
Loss on change of investments 1924 written off	313	
		6,910
Surplus		£524

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

There was a partial drought in 1928 which is likely to be reflected in a reduction of the total of the exports of cane sugar for 1929. In addition, the weather conditions during November and December, 1927, were not good for cotton planting, with the result that the cotton crop for 1928 is a very small one. Apart from these two features, however, the agricultural year for the Colony as a whole, has been a good one, with the production of various commodities well up to the average and in some cases above the average.

Two local Pine-apple Companies have been established in the Colony following upon the joint experiment between Canadian Canners Limited and the Government. This marks a turning point in the history of pine-apple canning in the Colony, and it is hoped that the industry now established in a small way will be permanent and that it will, in the course of time, assume considerable proportions.

The Fiji Development Company Limited commenced operating their new meat cannery at Tova and a good grade of beef is being produced. Initial difficulties appear to have been overcome and the locally produced article is not only gaining in popularity, but is attracting orders from Samoa and Tonga.

The three butter factories have operated successfully during the year, and there has been an increase in production at each factory.

Cane Sugar.

Cane sugar is the chief product exported and considerable interest has attached to this commodity since the industry was re-organised and a change-over effected from the system of indentured labour to one in which a large number of the estates are operated under the peasant tenant system. The latter system, inaugurated on a small scale, has now been considerably extended and appears to be meeting with substantial success. At one time doubts were expressed whether the Indian immigrants would take kindly to this system and it was feared that if the experiment proved a failure the labour position might become acute. It is satisfactory, therefore, to note that production in the last few years has been maintained and that in the last two years production has been substantially above the average.

The 1928 crop was exported to various countries as follows :—

	Tons.
Canada	79,485
New Zealand	28,781
United Kingdom	12,365
Elsewhere	52
	120,683

Exports of sugar for the last five years have been as follows :—

	Cwt.
1924	889,440
1925	1,834,880
1926	1,139,820
1927	1,455,060
1928	2,413,660

In explanation of the very large crop of cane sugar exported in 1928 it should be stated that 840,000 cwt. represents the carry-over from the 1927 crop and that this is an unusually large amount to be carried over from one season to another prior to export.

Copra.

From a production point of view the year has been a good one and the amount of copra exported is the largest in the history of the Colony. From a price point of view the year has been unsatisfactory as prices for copra on the European markets have ruled consistently low.

Exports for the last five years have been :—

	Tons.
1924	23,137
1925	24,133
1926	27,868
1927	26,560
1928	28,391

Levuana Moth.—In 1916 the copra industry of the Colony was threatened with gradual extinction on account of the fact that the purple moth, *Levuana iridescens*, broke away from its traditional stronghold on the island of Vitilevu and became established on Ovalau and the adjoining islands. Extensive outbreaks of the insect followed, and with the moths present in millions and small cutters going constantly from the port of Levuka in Ovalau to the copra-producing islands of Lau, and to Taveuni and Vanualevu, it was felt that unless control could be brought about the moth would eventually find its way to the three areas last named. A campaign was initiated in 1925, and as a result of this campaign a parasitic Tachnicia fly was successfully introduced from the Federated Malay States where it was attacking the larvae of the *Astoria catoxantha*, a moth somewhat distantly related to Levuana. This fly was widely colonised during the end of 1925 and the early part of 1926. It became established very rapidly and by the middle of 1926 it has spread to all the areas within the Colony affected by the Levuana moth.

The campaign has proved to be completely successful and its results are now beginning to show in the export figures. The coconut palms on the island of Ovalau have now completely re-recovered and are again producing copra, and the trees scattered throughout the island of Vitilevu which, in the past, had produced little or no copra, are now, for the general part, in full bearing. On account of the success of the campaign, the natives on the island of Vitilevu, through the instrumentality of the Secretariat for Native Affairs and the Provincial Commissioners, have begun a vigorous planting-up campaign, the results of which are likely to be shown for the first time in the export figures ten years hence, when the more vigorous trees come into bearing.

Coconut Scale.—This insect *Aspidiotus destructor* is a comparatively new arrival in the Colony and appears to have done more damage here than in any other place where it is known to occur, presumably for the reason that its natural enemies have, for the most part, not been present in this Colony. As the attacks of this insect caused a serious reduction in the output of copra on the islands which it had reached, a campaign was initiated to attempt to bring about a control by biological means. An Entomologist was sent to Java in 1927 and several small beetles, which feed upon this insect, were introduced. None of these, however, proved to be of great value in this Colony and an Entomologist was subsequently sent to the West Indies where a number of insects that feed upon this scale were known to occur. The more promising of these were eventually brought to Fiji and it is satisfactory to be able to report that at least one, the lady-bird of Coccinellid Beetle, named *Cryptogonatha nodiceps*, shows promise of being able to bring about the desired measure of control. It has now been established for over a year in several different localities and in each of those places has practically exterminated the scale in the neighbourhood of the original point of liberation. While it is too early to say what the final position will be, it is satisfactory to be able to record that satisfactory progress has been made in this campaign.

Bananas.

There has been little or no change in the industry during the past few years and shipments, with the exception of occasional small consignments to Australia of specially selected fruit graded under the supervision of a Government Inspector, have been confined to New Zealand, the only other near market and one where the demand for bananas is not much in excess of the present output of Fiji. The Australian market in a sense still remains closed to Fiji on account of the heavy import duty on fruit imposed by the Commonwealth Government in 1921. Shipments to New Zealand have declined slightly since 1926, due to the fact that a much better quality and grade of fruit for export to that country is now being insisted upon by the Fiji Government in order that a ready market for the product may be assured throughout the year.

Exports for the past five years have been :—

	Bunches.
1924	447,641
1925	566,475
1926	560,080
1927	547,472
1928	530,610

Cotton.

The cotton industry has not yet emerged from the experimental stage. In 1928 production fell to 124 bales, one of the smallest crops on record since the industry was revived in 1923. This was due to the unfavourable weather in the planting months of November and December, 1927.

Until this year the variety grown has been exclusively Sea Island cotton. This was satisfactory in 1922 and 1923 on account of the high prices that then prevailed for this type of cotton. Since that time, however, the price has steadily depreciated and it has been considered advisable to attempt to find a cotton that will have a ready sale at all times to replace Sea Island. At the Cotton Experiment Farm in the Sigatoka Valley a single seeded Kidney Cotton has been developed from original stock obtained in New Guinea. The advantages of this type of cotton are that there will be a ready sale for at least 5,000 bales, that the cost of picking is about half that for Sea Island, that the ginning percentage is approximately 35 per cent. as against 24 per cent., and that, finally, it can be ratooned for at least one season, so that the difficulty of unsuitable weather at the planting season will be to some extent overcome. The disadvantage is that it commands a price considerably below that for Fiji grown Sea Island. It is too early to say whether the advantages of this type will outweigh the one serious disadvantage. It is estimated that about 800 acres of the Kidney type of cotton are being grown this year in the Sigatoka Valley and it is hoped that the cotton produced from this acreage will enable growers to decide whether or not they wish to grow this type of cotton in future in preference to the Sea Island variety. The Kidney type of cotton is not yet fixed to type absolutely and the price anticipated for the crop from the 800 acres is likely to command a somewhat smaller price than the cotton of similar type, but more properly fixed, grown in subsequent years.

Production of Sea Island cotton since the revival of the industry has been :—

1923	101	bales of approximately 350 lb.
1924	180	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
1925	136	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
1926	919	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
1927	404	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
1928	124	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Dairying.

Manufacture of creamery butter in the Colony was commenced in 1922 at the Tailevu Dairy Factory and from that date the industry has steadily grown as shown by the following figures :—

	Lb. of butter.	
1920	—	
1921	13,104	For the most part not produced at a factory.
1922	23,785	
1923	59,219	
1924	143,219	
1925	168,844	
1926	247,727	
1927	302,513	
1928	313,655	
	1,272,066	

The partial drought in 1928 prevented the increase in production from being as great as it would otherwise have been. Rains fell towards the end of the year, however, and pastures recovered very quickly.

There are three factories, one at Navua, one at Rewa, and one at Tailevu, and a small increase in production took place at each factory during 1928.

When the industry commenced in 1922 practically all the butter consumed within the Colony was imported. During the intervening period production has increased to such an extent that the local demand can now be satisfied and a small amount of butter can be exported annually.

Exports commenced in 1925 and the figures are as follows:—

1925	213	*cwt.*	*exported.*
1926	525	,,	,,
1927	484	,,	,,
1928	303	,,	,,

Concurrently the local demand for butter has increased notably since 1922.

Pine-apple Canning.

The joint experiment in growing and canning pine-apples which was conducted by the Government and Canadian Canners, Limited, came to an end in the early part of 1928, when the Canadian Company withdrew as it did not wish to carry on plantation work in this Colony and as its interests were mainly in canning and not in growing. A Company was then formed which was registered in New Zealand under the name of The Fijian Pine-apple Company, and this Company took over the factory that had been used during the two years of the experiment and commenced operations in 1928. This Company has lands on the island of Ovalau and contemplates transferring the factory from Suva to a site on Ovalau.

At Nadi on the north-west side of Vitilevu a second pine-apple Company has been formed under the name of the West Coast Pines (Fiji), Limited, and, while this Company is not yet in a position to operate a canning factory, a considerable area of land has already been planted with Smooth Cayenne Pine-apples.

In November a delegation from the Hawaiian Pine-apple Company, of Honolulu, visited the Colony and inspected various areas that were considered to be suitable for the growing of pine-apples on a large scale. As a result of this visit an arrangement has been made under which a short term lease of the lands towards the head-waters of the Dreketi River has been taken up by a local resident in order that the Company may carry on experiments extending over a three years' period, which will enable the Company to come to a decision whether it will pay to develop the pine-apple industry on a large scale in this Colony.

The progress of this industry is shown by the following production figures :—

In 1926, 125 tons of pine-apples were tinned.
,, 1927, 212 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
,, 1928, 152 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

The small tonnage in 1928 is due to the fact that no fruit was used from the experimental plots at Tova on account of transport difficulties.

Rice.

In order to encourage the growing of rice the Government established a Rice Mill in 1922. Since that time three smaller mills have come into operation and it is understood that plans have been made for the erection of several more of these small mills. The Colony is seldom able to produce as much rice as it requires, the quantities imported during the last five years being as follows :—

	Cwt.
1924	13,158
1925	2,983
1926	47,808
1927	15,143
1928	24,380

The Government Rice Mill has been in operation since 1922 and has produced the following quantities of rice :—

	Cwt.
1922	5,860
1923	14,560
1924	16,220
1925	8,040
1926	9,600
1927	3,660
1928	10,180

The total production from all mills in 1928 was 16,300 cwt.

The rice-consuming community has increased considerably since 1922, both amongst the Fijians and Indians. The total consumption of rice in the Colony is not known because many Indians grow their own rice for local consumption. It is known, however, to be not less than 2,400 tons, and is probably greatly in excess of that figure.

Cattle.

The number of cattle in the Colony is estimated to be 700,000, the majority of which originated from Shorthorn and Hereford beef strains. These cattle are used as weeders on coconut estates and also supply the local market with beef. A certain number of cattle are also used for draught purposes. There are approximately 137 pure bred bulls in use in the Colony.

Meat-canning.

Early in 1928 the Fiji Development Company, Limited, commenced operations at their meat-canning factory on the Tova Estate. During the year this cannery has produced 52,000 lb. of canned meats and although difficulties were experienced at first the grade of beef produced is now considered to be excellent and it is gaining rapidly in popularity in the Colony and is also attracting orders from Samoa and Tonga.

Forestry.

Decision on applications for timber concessions continued to be deferred pending full consideration of the report of the Forestry expert who investigated the forests of the Colony during 1927. One concession over 1,000 acres was cancelled.

Statements of quantities of milled timber are not supplied by the millers to the Government, but it may reasonably be presumed from various indications that production has decreased rather than the contrary.

The Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company's mill in the mountains at Nadarivatu ceased cutting and remained idle for some months owing to the difficulty in transporting milled timber to the coast.

The problem of economical transport is still under consideration.

Messrs. J. T. Tuck & Sons of Buca Bay have virtually ceased production owing to lack of the capital required for reaching and working good timber among the hills back from the coast.

The Pacific Timbers, Limited, on Vanualevu Island, has not yet established effective production.

Messrs. A. H. Marlow & Co., and The Rewa Sawmilling Co., continue in operation, but most of the timber milled is used for cases. Customs records show that 32,079 superficial feet, valued at £322, were exported, mostly to Samoa.

Mr. J. P. Mead's report on the forests of the Colony, and his recommendations, were given consideration during the year, and, following the visit of Major R. D. Furse, D.S.O., of the Colonial Office Staff, and Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., of the Forestry Commission, *en route* to Australia and New Zealand to attend the Empire Forestry Conference, the Governor appointed Mr. I. McOwan, Secretary for Native Affairs, to represent the Colony at the Conference.

Mining Operations.

No discoveries of payable mineral deposits have hitherto been reported and operations have been limited to prospecting operations only. Six Prospecting Licences covering 1,820 acres remained in force at the end of the year and twenty-two new Prospecting Licences covering 10,659 acres were issued during the year. Miner's Rights issued numbered twenty-eight. An inquiry was received respecting the conditions governing licences to explore for oil in the Colony.

At the request of the Secretary of State, regulations under the Oil Mines Ordinance, 1915, were drafted and submitted to him for consideration.

Rubber.

Since the slump in the price of rubber in the latter part of 1926, production in the Colony has fallen off to such an extent that little or no importance can now be attached to what was, prior to 1927, a promising industry. Many plantations have been allowed to revert to bush, and until more attractive prices are offered it is doubtful whether further interest will be taken in them as rubber growing areas. Exports in 1928 show a decrease of 126,577 lb. from the previous year, but these figures should not be accepted as representing the actual drop in production. The yield for 1928 would probably be in the vicinity of 40,000 lb.

Exports during the past five years were as follows :—

	Lb.
1924	159,995
1925	144,331
1926	233,990
1927	221,230
1928	94,661

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1928 amounted to £4,184,420 of which the value of imports was £1,483,169 and of exports £2,701,251. The value of imports in 1928 was greater than that of 1927 by £259,866, while the value of exports exceeded that of 1927 by £703,877. In 1927 the value of exports exceeded the value of imports by £774,071 and in 1928 the balance of trade in favour of the Colony amounted to £1,218,082.

On two previous occasions the trade of the Colony exceeded £4,000,000, viz. in 1920 and 1921. In each of those years the value of sugar exported was considerably greater than in 1928 although the tonnage exported was less.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1924	1,066,594	1,508,934	2,575,528
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420

During the period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

Country.	1924. £	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £	1928. £
United Kingdom	269,231	332,080	444,047	316,824	404,718
Australia	438,715	576,260	607,171	528,740	621,396
Canada	59,067	42,128	59,633	51,105	70,262
India	39,643	25,423	48,161	45,253	44,613
New Zealand	127,837	117,413	142,225	124,775	140,697
Japan	14,065	13,314	30,067	13,454	28,811
United States	103,356	143,089	123,574	122,470	131,994

The preceding figures show that during the years mentioned the proportion of total import trade done with the several countries was as under :—

Country.	1924. *per cent.*	1925. *per cent.*	1926. *per cent.*	1927. *per cent.*	1928. *per cent.*
United Kingdom	25.24	26.12	29.99	25.90	27.28
Australia	41.13	45.33	41.00	43.22	41.90
Canada	5.54	3.30	4.03	4.18	4.19
India	3.72	2.00	3.25	3.70	3.00
New Zealand	11.98	9.24	9.60	10.20	9.48
Japan	1.32	1.05	2.03	1.09	1.94
United States	9.69	11.26	8.34	10.02	8.90

Imports.

The United Kingdom is the main source of our general imports.

These cover practically every class of goods and include sugar machinery, steam and oil engines, railway track, canning machinery, steel and metal bars and sheets, paints and oils, cement, hardware, enamelled ware, cutlery, clothing, piece goods, preserves, &c., but no trade is done in power or illuminating oils nor foodstuffs other than a small quantity of canned goods.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom rose from £316,824 in 1927 to £404,718 in 1928. The proportion of import trade with the United Kingdom was 27.28 per cent. in 1928 and the average for the last five years was 26.91 per cent. The United Kingdom does not supply foodstuffs to the Colony .

The main import trade with Australia and New Zealand is in foodstuffs and coal, the balance being made up mostly of goods re-exported, and the imports from Canada are represented chiefly by canned fish, motor-cars, tyres, and timber.

The imports from the United States of America consist mainly of lubricating, illuminating, and power oils and items of general hardware, those from Japan being chiefly cheap cotton goods.

Exports.

The following Return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Quantity.	*Value*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
Sugar ... ... Tons	44,472	768,110	91,744	1,371,267	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215	120,683	1,827,095
Copra ... ... Tons	23,137	484,496	24,133	497,713	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416	27,947	567,254
Molasses ... ... Tons	4,783	4,783	8,283	8,283	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181	14,599	14,599
Bananas ... Bunches	467,845	115,246	565,623	132,491	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819	521,003	147,781
Rubber ... ... lb.	159,995	7,416	145,213	16,116	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276	94,661	4,704
Gum ... ... cwt.	600	984	980	1,504	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707	865	1,212
Shell, turtle ... lb.	1,446	1,313	2,412	3,179	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382	1,965½	2,461
Shell, trocas ... tons	584	21,565	567	35,054	378	30,540	269	16,355	232	13,693
Bêche de mer ... cwt.	459	1,896	671	3,105	886	3,909	1,412	6,496	601	3,361
Biscuits ... ... lb.	334,365	7,788	482,146	10,429	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334	438,211	11,306
Butter ... ... cwt.	—	—	213	1,881	525	3,616	484	3,615	303½	2,269
Cotton ... ... lb.	86,659	7,176	7,612	571	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593	75,366	5,339
Oil, coconut ... tons	74	2,977	132	5,026	91½	4,387	79	3,357	101½	4,421
Fruit, other fresh	—	2,756	—	6,041	—	6,579	—	5,536	—	1,256
Vegetables ... cwt.	5,853	2,572	4,845	3,171	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717	9,147	6,169

As will be seen from the preceding table, the main exports of the Colony are sugar, copra, and bananas.

The production of copra is steadily increasing although in no marked degree. The value of the copra exported during 1928 was £567,254, representing a tonnage of 27,947 tons, of which 25,529 tons were shipped to United Kingdom and Continental ports and 2,418 tons to the United States of America.

Of the 120,683 tons of sugar exported in 1928, 28,781 tons were exported to New Zealand and 79,485 tons to Canada. The latter is a comparatively new market for Fiji sugar ; the whole output in former years being taken by New Zealand. The prospects of the industry are good.

The banana industry is the one most suited to the natives and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present but it is thought possible that, with improved methods of planting and packing, entry may again be made into the markets of the Commonwealth of Australia, from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for many years.

Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber and cotton. These are comparatively new industries. A considerable falling off in rubber exports occurred in 1928 which was due to the low market value in the United Kingdom. Only 94,661 lb. were exported, whereas 221,238 lb. were exported in 1927. 59,938 lb. were shipped to United States of America and 34,723 lb. to the United Kingdom. The whole of the cotton exported was shipped to the United Kingdom.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line call at Suva once every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney (Australia) and Vancouver (Canada) and vice versa. These steamers also call at Auckland (New Zealand) and Honolulu (Hawaii). The Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Suva-Lautoka and Sydney once every three weeks and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Auckland (New Zealand), Suva, Apia, and Samoa once every four weeks. The Matson Navigation Company's steamers call at Suva once every three weeks on their voyages between San Francisco and Sydney and vice versa. Inter-island communication is provided by a steamer owned by Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the Government steam yacht *Pioneer*, several small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, and by a number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port at Suva for six hours of daylight. A subsidy of £1,300 per annum is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, for a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports on Vanualevu. A subsidy of £7,500 per annum is paid to Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, for the inter-insular steamer provided by that Company, which calls regularly at Taveuni and at a number of outlying islands and copra-producing centres.

The principal route for English mails is via Vancouver by the Royal Mail Line and via San Francisco by the Matson Navigation Company, the average time of transit being 28–30 days. In addition to the regular steamers, mails for New Zealand and Australia are despatched whenever opportunity offers, the time of transit to Sydney direct being 5 to 6 days and to Auckland 4 days.

The towns of Suva and Levuka situated 54 miles apart and on different islands are connected by a telephone line, 11½ miles of which is submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by a telephone line between Suva and Lautoka passing through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu, and Ba. The total length of the line is 125 miles. The section Nausori to Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, of New Zealand. Certain hours during each day are allotted for Government and public use. The Ba-Lautoka section which belongs to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, is also available for Government and public use during certain hours daily.

Government telephone systems are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, Savusavu, and Taveuni. There is also a Government telephone line between Suva and Navua. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, have private systems at and between Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka, and also at Labasa on Vanualevu.

The Government Wireless Stations at Suva, Labasa, Savusavu, and Taveuni were transferred to the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, on the 1st January, 1928. The agreement with the Company provides for improvement of services and apparatus and for the establishment of direct communication with Australia.

The Pacific Cable Board have an office in Suva and direct cable communication is provided between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The road system of the Colony consists of about 1,886 miles of road, of which 343 miles are suitable for motor traffic in all weathers and 468 miles for motor traffic in fine weather. These roads are not continuous, being situated in five or six islands and centred at Suva, Lautoka, Navua, Sigatoka, Taveuni, Savusavu, and Lau, and they are in some cases not interconnected even when situated in the same island. The remainder of the roads consist of cart roads (about 98 miles) and bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improving road surfaces to meet the steady increase in traffic.

The numbers of motor vehicles registered at the end of 1926, 1927, and 1928 were as follows :—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*
Private cars	297	378	470
Public cars	311	320	327
Lorries	117	151	193
Motor-cycles	98	100	136
	823	949	1,126

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure.

The officers of the Court are a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar, a Clerk, and an Interpreter.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and Nisi Prius with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the powers and authorities of the Lord Chancellor of England.

It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th March, 1894, Rules providing for the Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court were also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit, and this provision applies to all Imperial laws extended to the Colony.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva in April, July, September, and December. The Court also goes on Circuit to Lautoka in February, June, and October each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva the accused and witnesses from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit otherwise to order. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice : in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Pacific Cable Board, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors and their clerks in actual practice, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen. In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice, by whom a copy of notes of the evidence taken at the trial are forwarded to the Governor with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases either issues a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to "The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by "The Civil Procedure Rules (1875)" or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are ;—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890,

Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905,

Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions, and the Admiralty Rules already referred to.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908 and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

An Ordinance of 1883 provides that if the Chief Justice shall think that the nature or amount of civil business pending at Levuka (the ancient capital) is sufficient to warrant the holding of a sitting there, he may appoint a date for such sitting. Of recent years this power has not been utilised and the provision of the "Levuka District Registry" by which all preliminary matters up to the actual hearing can be dealt with, has been very seldom used, as litigants prefer to come to Suva.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

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* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

† Rules, 1906.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided* in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. (Ordinance No. 2 of 1903). Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The Native Regulation Board has recently revised these Regulations and a new edition was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40*s.* or imprisonment for 2 months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80*s.*

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

On the criminal side of the Court there were, during the year 1928, 48 cases committed for trial involving some 74 accused.

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* Ordinance 2 of 1903.

There was, in addition, one case of contempt of Court. Amongst the cases heard were two for murder (involving in one instance 7 accused), but in both these cases the accused were found "not guilty." Trials during the year held at the Central Criminal Court and Circuit Court resulted in 41 convictions and 18 acquittals. With regard to the balance, the Attorney-General entered a Nolle Prosequi in the case of 8 accused, while a case involving 5 accused was returned to the district to be dealt with summarily. In two other instances the accused escaped while awaiting their trial. Crime, generally speaking, was composed of offences against the person.

On the civil side, 75 actions were instituted in the Supreme Court during the year under review, as follows:—Summonses for debt, &c., 42; actions under mortgages, &c., 13; summonses for rent and rates, 4; actions for damages, 3; applications for admissions as barristers and solicitors, 3; originating summonses, 2; petitions for reduction of capital, 2; Writs of Habeas Corpus, 2; miscellaneous, 4.

In the Appellate jurisdiction there were 5 criminal, and 3 civil appeals, lodged.

In the Divorce Court, 5 petitions were filed, one being from a European, and the others from Indian and half-caste petitioners. There was a considerable increase of petitions for divorce by natives under the provisions of the Divorce Regulation, 240 petitions coming before the Chief Justice for his decision. Seventy grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year, and in the Bankruptcy Court 2 petitions were presented, one being by an Indian, and the other by a European, debtor.

Police.

(*a*) *Strength.*—On 31st December, 1928, the authorised strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans—	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors First Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors Second Grade	6
Natives—	
N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	92
Indians—	
N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	78
	222

The Force was three short of strength on that date.

The officers and men were distributed over 25 stations on 7 different islands.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*—The total cost of the Force for all services was £21,383 16*s*. 5*d*. The cost of the Police per man was £96 6*s*. 5*d*., and the cost per head of population was 2*s*. 5*d*.

(*c*) *Crime.*—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,034, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	189
Offences against property	329
Other offences	1,516

There were two cases of homicide, two of rape, and three of breaking and entering. About sixty per centum of the offenders were Indians.

(*d*) Supervision is exercised over all persons entering or leaving the Colony.

(*e*) *Traffic.*—All traffic is controlled by the Constabulary, which carries out the registration of motor vehicles and the examination and licensing of drivers.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 1,126, being as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	470
Public motor passenger vehicles	327
Goods lorries	193
Motor-cycles	136

222 persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, 10 of them in respect of reckless or negligent driving.

(*f*) *Training.*—The fact that it has not been possible to provide funds to establish a Reserve renders the proper training of recruits a matter of difficulty.

(*g*) *Health.*—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony, very few men reporting sick.

(*h*) *Barracks.*—Except at Suva, the accommodation is adequate. It is hoped that the contemplated extension and reconstruction of the headquarters buildings and offices will be undertaken in 1929. These new buildings when completed will be of great benefit to the members of the Force and to the public who have business to transact with the Police.

(*i*) Communication between stations is hampered by the scarcity of roads. The provision of transport between the different islands is often difficult as it is rarely possible to find when required vessels travelling in the desired direction.

Prisons.

The prisons of the Colony are under the charge of a Superintendent. The main penitentiary is at Suva, and is an up-to-date establishment with every modern improvement for the safe custody and handling of criminals. The system is not reformative, but industries have been established whereby prisoners are taught useful trades such as tinsmithing, blacksmithing, matmaking, tailoring, and carpentering. There is also a Government bakery at Suva Gaol, which is conducted at a substantial profit. There are nineteen Provincial or District Gaols where short-sentence prisoners are confined and are employed principally in maintaining the Government Stations.

No institution exists at present for reformative treatment of youthful criminals, but a Committee appointed to investigate this subject and submit recommendations thereon is about to report on the advisability of adopting a suitable scheme for the handling of juvenile delinquents and it is likely that an Indistrial School for the accommodation of offenders of this class will be established in the near future.

The annual numbers of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony have been as follows :—

	Male.	*Female.*
1924	1,037	6
1925	1,130	9
1926	997	30
1927	1,081	17
1928	1,209	15
Average over period...	1,090.8	15.4

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total sum expended by the Public Works Department in 1928 amounted to £204,880, of which £58,395 was expenditure under Loan Works Account. This marks another record in the operations of the Public Works Department, corresponding figures for the last five years being as follows :—

	£
1924	119,871
1925	115,683
1926	136,327
1927	170,187
1928	204,800

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works with headquarters in Suva. For the general executive purposes of the Department the Colony is divided into three districts with headquarters at Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is nominally under the charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, machine shops, repair shops, and boatyard. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, &c., operates from Walu Bay. Further improvements in the equipment of the Public Works Department workshops at Walu Bay have been made during the year, notably the erection of a joiner's shop, equipped with the latest type of woodworking machines, the provision of a second slipway for small craft, which is about half completed and which should be in operation by about the middle of 1929, the completion of the new Government stores, and the erection of the foundry which is now ready for work.

The number of workmen employed by the Public Works Department in the Suva District is about 800 and the value of the works carried out in 1928 was £111,369 13*s.* 6*d.*

During the year the new Government House was completed and handed over by the contractor to the Government.

The most important work carried out departmentally was the building of the hostel for the girls attending the Girls' Grammar School, Suva, which was started in December, 1927, and at the end of 1928 was finished with the exception of a few minor details. This building is of reinforced concrete construction and is the largest building of this type erected departmentally for many years. The general finish of the building indicates the capacity of the Public Works Department for carrying out this and similar works. The facilities which are now provided at the Walu Bay workshops enable works of this nature to be done very much more cheaply and expeditiously departmentally than by contract.

During the year a scheme for supplying water to the native towns in the Nadi District was approved. The scheme involves the construction of a dam to a height of 240 feet above the lowest point of supply and the total length of the main and reticulation will be approximately 11 miles made up in the following sizes of pipes :—

	Feet.
4-in. cast iron pipe	32,275
2-in. gal. ,, ...	6,460
1½-in. ,, ,, ...	21,200
1-in. ,, ,, ...	5,750
¾-in. ,, ,, ...	3,850

The work in connection with this scheme is estimated to cost £10,000 and it is expected that the supply will be finished and in running order by the end of 1929

During the year the main structure of the King's Wharf, Suva, was kept under observation and repairs were carried out where necessary. The forward settlement of the trestle backing to the reclamation has received attention, and the placing of the concrete mattress was completed at the southern end of the wharf and appears to have effectively overcome the trouble encountered.

The large amount of repairs to this structure which have to be made annually and the ever-increasing cost of upkeep indicate the unsuitability of wooden wharves to meet the climatic conditions of Suva and Fiji generally. Although in this wharf ironbark timber, one of the most durable of Australian hardwoods, has been used for wallings, fenders, girders, &c., yet after a period of some twelve years these timbers have decayed, or are showing signs of decay necessitating their replacement as occasion offers.

Schemes for various works were considered during the year, chief among which were the provision of wharfs at Namoli, Lautoka, and at Savusavu. In the schemes originally submitted both these structures were to be of reinforced concrete and the total estimated expenditure was £20,000. Another scheme discussed during the year but not yet finalised was the construction of the Rewa River bridge, estimated to cost about £30,000. There is every possibility that the work will be put in hand during 1929. The bridge should mark a very great advance in the operations of the Public Works Department and the construction should employ a considerable number of skilled and unskilled labourers for about eighteen months.

Roads and bridges continued to occupy the special attention of the Department. The total expenditure under this heading was £61,548 18*s.* 1*d.*, of which £12,024 7*s.* 11*d.* was on loan account. The streets and roads within the Municipal areas of Suva and Levuka are maintained and improved by the respective Councils. The roads in the immediate vicinity of Suva are under the direct supervision of the District Engineer, while the remainder of the Colony is divided for purposes of road administration into sixteen Road Board areas, which as a rule coincide with the Magisterial Districts.

Motor traffic is increasing throughout the Colony and the policy of gradually improving earth-roads with metal and gravel surfaces at a number of working points simultaneously is producing good results. For this purpose motor lorries are the most useful form of road construction plant and the recent additions in this respect have produced a notable improvement in the rate of progress.

Under the present system the Road Boards, which have legally only advisory powers, are provided with funds from the General Revenue of the Colony.

The construction of the new road from Naduruloulou on the Rewa River to Korovou, Tailevu, was approved during the year and the work was started in September and was well in hand by the end of the year. This road traverses a considerable length of hilly country which renders construction both costly and difficult. Also, owing to the heavy rainfall, work is intermittent, particularly on the marshy portions in the valleys. The estimated cost of the road is £23,100. When finished it will form an important link in the chain of roads which will ultimately encircle the island of Vitilevu. Though no great length of new road was made during the year, there has been a steady improvement throughout the Group in the provision of better road surfaces for motor transport. The work done by the various Road Boards has improved in excellence and volume with the passing of each year and the time is not far distant when the roads already in existence will be motorable throughout the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year was a fairly satisfactory one as regards acute infectious fevers, but in the latter part of the year the type of influenza that occurred was more severe than usual and is accountable for the increased death-rate. In Rotuma, which escaped the 1918–1919 pandemic, it was particularly severe, the death-rate from this disease being 13.7 per thousand of the population.

The general death-rate was 18.6 per thousand, or 1.6 more than in the previous year. The death-rate of Fijians, 24.9, was 1.9 more than in the previous year; that of Indians 10.8 was satisfactory, but higher than in 1927.

On the other hand the birth-rate was 2.8 per thousand higher at 33 per thousand and all races shared in this increase.

The Smallpox Vaccination Campaign, started in 1927, was continued in 1928 and during these two years about two-thirds of the population were vaccinated.

The Infant Welfare Campaign amongst Fijian children was continued and there are now two whole-time trained nurses employed and a Lady Doctor is also a part-time worker.

During the year a campaign against yaws and ringworm was started and was partly financed by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The care of public health in the country districts is in the hands of fourteen District Medical Officers, forty-three Native Medical Practitioners, a European Sanitary Inspector, a European Ankylostomiasis Officer, and five Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

In Suva there is a whole-time Medical Officer of Health, three European Sanitary Inspectors, and one Fijian Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Besides the thirteen Provincial Hospitals there are General Hospitals at Levuka, Lautoka, and Nadi, an Indian Women's Hospital at Ba conducted by the Methodist Mission and subsidised by the Government, and also subsidised European Cottage Hospitals at Ba, Savusavu, and Taveuni.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva has 113 beds. There is a European Nursing Staff of 5 trained Nurses and 12 Probationers, and there are 24 Native Nursing Pupils. There are two full-time Resident Medical Officers. Attached to the hospital is a Central Medical School for Natives. The School, which is an expansion of the former Native Medical School, was completed and opened in 1928. Funds were provided by the Government of Fiji, and by the other Administrations in the Western Pacific which had agreed to send students to the school. The Rockefeller Foundation has contributed £8,000 towards the construction and maintenance of the school. At the end of 1928 17 Fijian and 3 Indian pupils from Fiji, 4 Samoans, 4 Gilbert Islanders, 4 Tongans, 2 Cook Islanders, 4 students for the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and 2 for the New Hebrides were in residence. A Medical Officer is whole-time tutor to the school and there are six other lecturers and demonstrators.

Lepers of all races in Fiji are compulsorily segregated on the Island of Makogai, and lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands are also received in the Asylum.

The staff includes a Resident Medical Superintendent, 12 European and 8 Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters. There were 409 patients in the Asylum at the end of the year, of whom 11 were from New Zealand, 20 from Samoa, 13 from Tonga, and 63 from the Cook Islands.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all interested practically in education : Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian organisations.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an Industrial School at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time, also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematize the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education and by School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

As a result of a resolution of the Great Council of Chiefs held in 1917, six provincial boarding schools for Fijians were established during the years 1920–1925, at which selected Fijian village pupils are enabled to receive a primary education under the guidance of European headmasters.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed to investigate the educational facilities provided in the Colony and to make recommendations for their improvement. This Commission submitted a comprehensive report and several of its recommendations are being adopted. Mr. Caughley, M.A. (late Director of Education, New Zealand), was appointed Director of Education, Fiji, on the 3rd December, 1927, and steps are being taken to reorganise the Department of Education, to establish a Government Training School for Teachers, and to overhaul existing education legislation and regulations.

The educational facilities provided for European pupils are as follows :—

Under a scheme of co-operation existing between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji, the Colony is enabled to obtain trained teachers for the Boys' and the Girls' Grammar Schools which exist in Suva and for the Public School, Levuka. The syllabus of instruction is designed to meet the requirements of examinations up to the standard of the New Zealand University Matriculation examination. The three schools have well-equipped hostels. The boarding fees for the Suva schools are £50 p.a., and the tuition fees for non-ratepayers are £2 2*s.* 0*d.* p.a., for primary pupils and £7 10*s.* 0*d.* p.a. for secondary pupils.

In addition, the Roman Catholic Orders of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny and of the Marist Brothers provide a sound education to a secondary standard for the children of their faith.

Small schools with certificated European Mistresses have been established at five country centres of European population in which children are given a primary education. Young children, whose parents are in isolated places, may be enrolled in the correspondence classes conducted by the Education Department.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Many of the villages possess a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may proceed to one of ten assisted primary schools, or to one of the six Government provincial boarding schools. In all Government schools manual occupations form part of the curriculum and the pupils grow all native foodstuffs required for their maintenance. From the provincial schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government scholarships enabling them to continue their studies in New Zealand.

As regards Indian education, there is one Government Indian school, and other schools established by the Missions and by private enterprise which are aided by Government grants. This year ten private Indian schools were admitted to grants, and there were at the end of 1928, 32 assisted primary schools, and some 30 private schools for Indians.

Under the provisions of the Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance, 1918, 646 schools and 1,408 teachers were registered up to 31st December, 1928, and 12 schools and 34 teachers were exempted during the year from registration. The majority of these schools are native village schools in which instruction is given in the vernacular, in reading and in writing. There are now altogether 82 Government and assisted schools, 9 being for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent, 36 for Fijians, 32 for Indians, and 5 receiving pupils of various races. They are attended by 6,936 pupils, of whom 694 are Europeans, or of European descent, 3,712 are Fijians and others, and 2,530 are Indians. The staffs consist of 71 European, 98 Fijian, and 54 Indian teachers.

The annual expenditure on education, which amounted to about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, increased to £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, £31,584 in 1926, £34,027 in 1927, and £36,089 in 1928.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered: Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations: New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations: London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations: Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to ninety-nine years for leases for agricultural purposes, seventy-five years for building purposes, and twenty-one years with option of renewal for a further period of twenty-one years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of ninety-nine years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per centum of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1*d*. to 2*s*. per acre, coconut lands from 6*d*. to 5*s*., hill land from 6*d*. to 2*s*., banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s*. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1928 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freeholds...	1,589	531,369	1	287	531,656	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	341	19,047	58	3,029	22,076	—
Leases of Native Land	6,908	363,385	675	14,389	377,774	—
			Total	... ...	931,506	4,523,620

Six hundred and thirty-eight applications for leases of native lands aggregating 13,745 acres were received during the year. Of these 222 applications for 3,976 acres were approved and 266 applications for 5,640 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 85 per cent. of the total. Ninety-one applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 5,401 acres. Of these thirty applications for 1,010 acres were approved and 51 for 4,383 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

Survey.

The Survey staff of the Lands Department consists of five officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1928, main traverse surveys were continued as routine work and miscellaneous surveys made as required. Six surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native lands.

Two hundred and ninety-two plans were received from private surveyors, examined and passed for issue of leases.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordnance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be in-interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand ; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands ; and to the 31st December, 1928, £15,291 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission in 1928 completed investigations in the Province of Macuata and in the major portion of the Province of Cakaudrove.

The number of surveyors attached to the Commission was increased during the year, and at the end of the year comprised ten surveyors and five supernumerary officers.

Survey operations were carried out in the Provinces of Colo East, Naitasiri, Colo North, Macuata, and Bua.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is in fact a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependents from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes: agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers, the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4*s.* a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small, but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended.

They are mostly employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boat-builders vary from 7*s.* to 12*s.* a day, according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependents. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

The majority of Indians who signed on for contract labour under the Masters and Servants Ordinance during the year 1928 were employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company during the cane-crushing season. The total number of Indian labourers employed by the Company remained about the same as in the previous year.

Approximately 3,000 are employed during the planting season, the number rising to over 4,000 during the harvesting and crushing season, inclusive of those working under written agreements.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Indian labourers dependent mainly on wages. In 1921 this was put at 5,000. The number so dependent is now considerably less, and only a small minority of Indian labourers are entirely dependent on their cash earnings. The great majority live on plots or small allotments on the outskirts of settlements, and family earnings are supplemented by the produce of these and of the poultry and cows which are kept almost universally.

For regular employees of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company cash wages are supplemented by the provision of free accommodation and free medical attendance, a privilege extended to the families of labourers, who also are granted facilities for keeping cows. In addition to this employees of the Company are entitled to concession rates for their food supplies at the Company's stores. At current prices the concession is worth about 1*s*. 4*d*. a week to a single man and correspondingly more to men with families.

There has been practically no change in the general level of cash wages. In Suva the ordinary rate is 3*s*. per day (normally eight hours). The standard in country districts is 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. per day. Wages for semi-skilled labour run up to 4*s*. and 5*s*. per day.

The information as to wages paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company may be summarised as follows :—

For field work the ordinary wage is 1*s*. 8*d*. per day for a six hours task, with opportunities for working extra time. A bonus of 6*d*. per week is given for a full week's work. Harvest wages are by piece work at a standard rate per ton, and cane cutters earn up to 22*s*. 6*d*. per week or more. Skilled agricultural labourers, ploughmen, tractor drivers and the like are paid at special rates ranging from 9*s*. 9*d*. to 17*s*. per week, with a bonus for a full week's work. A full week's work is normally 5½ days.

In the mills during the slack season wages range from 10*s*. to 21*s*. a week, with an additional bonus. Special workmen are paid up to 30*s*. a week. During the crushing season the basic wage is 11*s*. 6*d*. a week with higher wages for a large proportion for special work and extra wages for overtime. Bonuses for a full week's work range from 2*s*. 3*d*. to 3*s*. 9*d*. Men engaged for the season (about six months) are also entitled to an extra bonus of £4 to £4 10*s*. 0*d*. for a full season's work.

The general range of wages for domestic servants in the Colony is from £3 a month for garden hands (5½ days) to £5 or £6 for cooks and table servants (generally 6½ days), with food supplied during the day. The great majority of domestic servants live in their own homes. Car drivers are paid £8 per month and upwards.

During the period 1912 to 1919, after which indentures were abolished, the average wage of an indentured labourer per working day rose from 13.32*d*. to 15.36*d*. in 1917 and to 18.13*d*. in 1919. Except in the year 1914 the average wage paid to the additional contract labour employed during the crushing season was 21*d*.

The general wage for labour in Suva seems to have remained at 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. a day throughout the period.

Indian wages in outlying plantations are higher than those quoted above and are generally supplemented by free quarters and food supplies at concession rates.

The demand for labour exceeds the supply and the majority of the Punjabis who arrived at the end of the year found employment at once.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, at present employed under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, is about 1,232. Of these 831 are employed in the Suva District and 401 in the various country districts. The labour is composed of several nationalities as set out hereunder :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Indians.*	*Fijians.*	*Others.*
70	99	678	354	31

No race or class distinction is made with regard to labour. Europeans, Indians, Fijians, Chinese, &c., often work together in the same gang and each is paid in accordance with the standard of work done.

Road labourers compose more than half the labour force. Of these 592 are Indians and 254 Fijians. The Fijian does not, as a rule, care for the heavy routine work of repairing roads and it is only in the country districts where Indian labour is scarce that they find employment in this manner. Fijians chiefly find employment in the Works Department as carpenters, boat-builders, and water transport workers. Indians compose the bulk of unskilled labour on road and quarry works, and builders and dockyard labourers are for the most part of this race.

Indian labour is scarce throughout the Colony, and it is the usual custom for the labouring class of Indians to cultivate a small area of paddy and maize in addition to performing daily work. During the planting and harvesting seasons considerable numbers of labourers spend the whole of their time on agriculture and gangs are depleted. Works, however, are arranged accordingly.

The general rate of wages for unskilled labour in the Suva district is 3*s.* per day of eight hours and 2*s.* 6*d.* in the country. Where Indian labour is scarce in country districts Fijians command a somewhat higher rate. Levuka, for instance, has to pay 4*s.* for Fijians and Taveuni and Vunidawa 3*s.* In other cases the rates are the same for Indians and Fijians at 2*s.* 6*d.* There are about 850 unskilled labourers employed by the Department. In addition there is a body of about 200 which can only be classed as semi-skilled men earning from 3*s.* 6*d.* up to 6*s.* per day as members of launch crews, slipway hands, helpers to various trades, timekeepers, painters, &c. Among the skilled trades it is sometimes difficult to obtain trained men, and comparatively high wages are commanded by good tradesmen. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane, and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, blacksmiths, &c.

The half-castes usually find employment in the building trades as carpenters, joiners, and boat-builders.

The wages of skilled workmen vary considerably with the individual standard of skill. There are no fixed rates and no trade unions.

The following figures will give some idea of the current rates :—

Carpenters and Joiners.—From 3*s.* 6*d.* up to £1 per day, depending on the degree of skill. Half-caste carpenters from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* per day. Fijians can earn up to 12*s.* per day.

Boat-builders.—(Chiefly half-castes), from 8*s.* up to £1 per day. Semi-skilled Fijians employed in the boat-sheds from 3*s.* 9*d.* up to 8*s.*

Painters.—(Usually Indians), 3*s.* 6*d.* per day. Leaders up to 9*s.* per day.

Mechanics.—(Including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilersmiths, &c.), up to £1 per day. Apprentices, 5*s.*, rising to £2 5*s.* 0*d.* per week. Usually Europeans and half-castes.

Lorry and Steam-roller Drivers.—(Chiefly Europeans) 15*s.* to 18*s.* per day. The average wages are about £4 15*s.* 0*d.* per week.

Road Overseers.—(Chiefly Europeans) £18 to £25 per month. Road Gang Sirdars (Indians) £4 10*s.* 0*d.* up to £10 8*s.* 0*d.* per month. Average wages £7 per month.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No alteration was made during the year in the methods of administration of Native Affairs, but a wider basis of representation of native opinion was provided by bringing into force the revised Native Regulations made by the Native Regulation Board in 1927. Under these regulations, which embody, for the most part, the recommendations of the Great Council of Chiefs, the constitutions of the Great Council of Chiefs and of District and Provincial Councils were amended. The District Councils, which are purely native Councils under the direction of the Chief of the District, have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the health, good government and prosperity of their respective districts and of electing representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils which are under the direction of the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor, have similar powers with regard to their respective Provinces and have also the power of electing representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. The constitution of the Great Council of Chiefs, which meets every two years and which advises the Governor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijians and also nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives to the Legislative Council, was amended by the reduction of the number of official members and the admission of representatives selected by the Provincial Councils. All selected and nominated members of the Council hold office for three years.

The amendments made in the constitutions of these Councils provide the necessary links between the natives and the Government to ensure an adequate representation of the wishes and opinions of the natives throughout the Colony. The powers conferred upon these Councils provide the Fijian with a very large measure of self-government.

All offences against the provisions of the Native Regulations are tried by specially constituted Courts. Minor infringements are dealt with by Native Stipendiary Magistrates in District Courts, from which appeal lies to the European Magistrate of the District. All graver offences are dealt with in the Provincial Courts in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. Appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In addition to broadening the basis of representation of native opinion, the revised Native Regulations, which were brought into force during the year, make provision for the better care of women and children and of sick persons ; for the better control of unmarried girls and of women living in industrial centres ; for the prohibition of irregular unions ; for the more effective registration of births and deaths ; and for the determination of the legitimacy of children born in wedlock. Provision is also made to ensure the safeguarding of funds collected for purposes of common benefit or private enterprise, to prohibit the unauthorised collection of money by promises of future gain, to secure a money payment in lieu of communal services from men absent from their villages for more than a year, to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling, and to ensure the maintenance of the wives and families of men absent from their villages. The revised Regulations are based upon native custom and are in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community.

The first meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs, as newly constituted, was held in Suva in November. The Council was attended by senior native officials, chiefs nominated by the Governor, and by elected representatives from all the Provinces. The members of the Council after expressing, on behalf of the Fijian race, their undiminished loyalty to His Majesty the King, and their appreciation of the efforts being made by the Government to promote their welfare, discussed at length a wide variety of subjects appertaining to their government and well-being, and tendered their advice thereon to the Governor. The members showed a keen interest in and desire for progressive legislation and, amongst other things, advocated the establishment of an Agricultural and Technical College for the practical training of their young men ; the appointment of native members to Provincial Road Boards ; the appointment of Government agents to receive and sell native produce ; the compulsory amalgamation of small villages to ensure better sanitary conditions and a more vigorous social life ; and the prohibition of the sorcerous practice of medicine. The deliberations of the Council indicated a desire, amongst the Fijians themselves, to relinquish such of their traditional customs of work and living as had proved to have a retarding influence upon their progress and to adopt more practical, if less picturesque, methods of attaining prosperity and of equipping themselves to face future competitive conditions. At the close of the Council the Governor presented, by command of His Majesty the King, the badge of Companion of the Imperial Service Order to Ratu Deve Toganivalu in recognition of forty years faithful service to the Government.

During the early part of the year the general health of the natives was satisfactory. In the latter part of the year there was an epidemic of influenza of an unusually severe type and a considerable incidence of measles and chicken-pox. There was also a severe drought which affected the health of the natives in the dry districts by diminishing the water supplies. These causes contributed towards a death-rate of 24.95 amongst the natives, an increase of 1.97 over that of the previous year. The birth-rate was 33.36 and the total increase for the year 765. Since the census of 1921 the Fijian race has increased by 6,553. The total native population at the close of the year was estimated at 91,028 and the total population of the Colony at 176,793, which gives an average of 23.78 per square mile. There were 906 marriages amongst the natives during the year.

Considerable progress was made during the year in providing additional medical facilities to promote the health of the people. With the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation of the United States of America, an intensive campaign against yaws and ringworm was conducted in the Provinces of Bua and Macuata. The results of the campaign were satisfactory and showed that it is possible, by thorough and systematic treatment, to reduce the incidence of these diseases to a minimum. The smallpox vaccination campaign was continued and approximately two-thirds of the whole population have now been vaccinated. The new Central Medical School for the training of native students from all parts of the Pacific was completed and opened. At the end of the year 40 students, of whom 17 are Fijians, were in training. Additional accommodation was provided at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital for the training of native obstetric nurses and their numbers were increased from 18 to 24. The new hospital at Nadi was completed and opened, and separate wards added for the accommodation of natives. Under the established medical service, free medical and surgical treatment is provided for natives at thirteen provincial and four general hospitals and at the hands of native medical practitioners stationed throughout the Provinces. Free treatment is available to native women at the hands of 53 trained native obstetric nurses.

An orphanage for native children was built and equipped from native funds and placed under the control of the Medical Superintendent and the Matron of the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

It is intended for the reception of infants whose mothers die at or near childbirth and for their care until they reach an age when they may safely be returned to their tribal units. The care of these infants provides valuable experience for the native nurses in training at the hospital.

Child welfare work amongst the natives, which was begun in 1927, was continued throughout the year in the Province of Tailevu under a fully qualified European nurse and in the native towns around Suva by the voluntary services of Dr. Roberts, wife of the American Consul, who was successfully engaged for some years in similar work in the mandated territory of Western Samoa. In response to the offer of the voluntary services of a Methodist Mission Sister, who is a trained nurse attached to the Matavelo Girls' School, this work was extended during the year to the Province of Ba. The work is carried out upon lines designed to promote not only the immediate health of the women and young children, but the creation of a desire amongst the natives generally to adopt, of their own volition, more hygienic conditions in which to live and bring up their children. The keen interest displayed by the women and their efforts to profit by the assistance and instruction given to them have resulted in undoubted improvement in the health of the communities in which the work is conducted. The success which has so far attended this work, due in very large measure to the devoted work of the European ladies engaged therein, has justified its extension to other Provinces. For this purpose the sum of £2,000 has been provided from General Revenue for 1929 and the very generous offer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited to contribute £2,000 in 1929 and a further £2,000 the following year has been accepted. This money will be devoted entirely to the extension of child welfare work and to defraying the cost of a travelling European Medical Officer to supervise the work of native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses and to effect further improvement in the sanitary conditions under which the natives live.

The Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions have intimated their intention to assist to the full extent of the means at their disposal. With their co-operation it is hoped to extend the work throughout the greater part of Viti Levu during the coming year.

The efforts being made to safeguard and promote the health of the natives receive their enthusiastic support and it is hoped, with their co-operation, to effect a steady and increasing improvement in their health and happiness.

Under the Native Regulations, Fijian children are required to attend school up to the age of fourteen years. No restrictions are placed upon the parents' choice of a school, which is only limited by geographical conditions and the capacity of the schools available. As the elementary education of the natives remains largely in the hands of the several religious bodies established in the Colony, the parents' choice generally falls upon a school conducted by the denomination to which they belong. In most native villages the boys and girls are taught the rudiments of education by native teachers most of whom have received some training at the central Mission schools. Where conditions permit several villages join together in the establishment of a joint school, in some of which certificated teachers are employed. At many of the Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by a European missionary or priest assisted by Mission sisters and native teachers. From these schools many of the pupils continue their education at the central schools and training colleges operated by the Missions whose curricula include branches of technical education. A limited number of Fijian youths are trained in modern methods of agriculture at the Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso. A number of the older native girls receive education and training in domestic science at the Methodist Mission Girls' School at Matavelo.

In addition to the Mission schools there are in some Provinces boarding schools controlled by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko and supported by native funds. There are also six Joint Provincial schools under direct Government control in which selected pupils from all the Provinces receive a good primary education. These schools are under the direct control of fully qualified European headmasters who are assisted by a staff of trained native teachers and manual instructors. An annual contribution is made from native funds towards the maintenance of these schools. Higher education is provided for selected pupils from the Provincial and Mission schools at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, Nasinu. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising youths outside the Colony, and four Fijians attended Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year.

A native scholarship fund was established towards the end of the year to defray, in the first instance, the cost of providing an exceptionally promising Fijian youth with a full course of training as a medical student at Otago University, New Zealand. Assistance is given by the Government to a number of primary and vernacular schools by a system of money grants which vary in amount according to the standard of education provided in the schools to which the grants are made.

The whole system of native education, including the extent to which additional revenue should be raised for the extension of educational facilities, is receiving the Government's attention. In all matters relating to the education of the natives the Missions have always played an important part and it is felt that progress can most effectively be made by assisting the Missions to improve their present organizations. For this purpose substantial grants have been approved in aid of Davuilevu School, which will be used as a training school for native teachers, and of Navuso Agricultural School. A sum of £5,000 has also been made available for grants in aid of building, extending and equipping schools. A substantial portion of this sum will be granted to the Methodist Mission school to be built at Nasere for the education and training of Fijian girls. The establishment of a teachers' training school provides the first and most essential step towards the placing of native education upon a sound basis. The extension at the same time of technical and agricultural instruction will provide the natives with an education which will be of practical value to them in their endeavours to develop the natural resources of their lands and to raise their standard of living.

The Fijians remain essentially an agricultural people dependent for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their tribal lands. Although a considerable number of the younger men go to work on sugar or coconut estates they almost invariably return to the cultivation of their lands when the object for which they worked has been attained. Their agricultural activities are directed primarily to the planting of crops for their own food supplies. These crops consist chiefly of yams, dalo, tapioca, sweet potatoes, plantains, and bread-fruit. They are skilled agriculturists and although they generally use but the simplest instruments their planting operations are very successful.

During the latter part of the year many Provinces suffered from a severe drought, but by taking full advantage of local conditions of soil and moisture the natives successfully raised catch crops in sufficient quantity to supply their needs. The chief crops grown by the natives for profit are coconuts, bananas, sugar cane, and yaqona.

Large areas of coconut groves are owned by the natives throughout the Colony. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra. A considerable proportion of the copra exported from the Colony is made by the natives. A substantial improvement has been made during the year in the case of established coconut plantations and in the planting of new areas.

In the chief productive areas European Coconut Inspectors appointed by the Government have carried out a thorough and systematic campaign for the clearing up and thinning out of old coconut groves and have personally supervised the selection and planting of new areas and the manufacture of copra. The effects of this work are to reduce the incidence of disease affecting the coconut palms, to increase the yield of coconuts and to improve the quality of copra. These results besides being of direct permanent benefit to the native owners serve as a practical demonstration of the utility of adopting better methods of cultivation. The improvement in the health of the coconuts in Viti Levu and adjacent islands consequent upon the effective control of the Levuana moth has been maintained and large areas of coconuts which were formerly non-productive are now bearing well.

The restored confidence in the value of coconut palms has led to the planting of new areas by the natives. In Viti Levu alone over

3,500 acres have been planted in coconuts by the natives during the year. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease aided by the work of the Coconut Inspectors will result in material increase in the prosperity of a very large section of the Fijians.

The major portion of the bananas exported from the Colony is grown by Fijians. Only fruit of first class quality is exported and in the maintenance of this quality the natives are assisted by European Inspectors appointed by the Government. These Inspectors supervise the weeding out and destruction of diseased plants and the planting of new areas with healthy plants. They advise the natives in the selection of suitable soils, proper methods of drainage and cultivation, and in the handling of fruit. The fruit is sold by the natives to the exporters either at their plantations or at Government packing stations.

During the year a system of granting licences to banana buyers was instituted. This system provides minimum prices for the purchase of bananas, the prices varying according to the time of the year. It also ensures a steady market throughout the year for all good quality fruit grown by the natives in the areas over which licences are granted. The provision of known minimum prices and of an assured market should effect an increase in the large income annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

The cultivation of sugar cane, which is mainly in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of Indian planters, is gradually being adopted by Fijians. The quantity of sugar cane grown by the natives is not great, but it is steadily increasing. In one small district 1,664 tons of sugar cane was grown by the natives. As the cultivation of sugar cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely untried by the natives, the successful adoption of their use augurs well for the development of more scientific methods of agriculture amongst the Fijians.

As the result of experiments conducted at the Government cotton farm at Sigatoka a variety of cotton has been produced which appears to be admirably suited to local conditions. This variety is more hardy and has a much heavier yield than the Sea Island cotton which has been grown during the past few years. As it can be used more extensively than the Sea Island variety there is likely to be a steadier sale for it in the world's markets. It is as yet too early to gauge the extent to which this cotton can profitably be grown but it is hoped that it will in the near future provide the Fijians, more especially in the inland districts where difficulties of transport preclude the cultivation of heavier crops, with a profitable industry admirably suited to their social system.

The question of the preservation and management of the large areas of forest land, most of which are owned by the Fijians, has been advanced during the past year. The report on the forests of the Colony, submitted by an officer of the Federated Malay States Forestry Service, indicates that they are of great potential value and that it is advisable to take steps to preserve, extend, and develop them. In consequence of this report it has been decided to secure the services of a qualified Forestry Officer who will explore the forest lands of the Colony and acquire information and experience on which a definite scheme of forestry can be based. The adoption of a scientific forestry policy will preserve to the natives a valuable heritage and should prove of ultimate benefit to the Colony as a whole.

Apart from their agricultural pursuits many of the better educated Fijians occupy administrative and clerical positions in the Government Service. Some have qualified as Native Medical Practitioners and others as Native Stipendiary Magistrates. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as masters, engineers, or seamen on inter-insular vessels or as carpenters and artisans. There is abundant evidence of an increasing desire among the younger Fijians to acquire education and training in order to fit themselves to take an active part in all branches of industry in the Colony. The success which has so far attended their efforts holds out encouraging hopes for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The vital statistics given elsewhere show a further increase of 1,533 in the Indian population. The birth-rate rose from 27.72 to 34.20 per thousand, and the death-rate from 9.42 to 10.80. There has been a gradual rise in the death-rate from the very low rates reported some six or seven years ago. Judging from older records a death-rate of from 10 to 12 per thousand does not appear abnormal. There can be little doubt that deaths were not fully reported during the first few years after the abolition of indentures. The number of marriages registered is increasing steadily, though it has not yet reached the level of the years before the introduction of the present Marriage Ordinance. It is the intention of the Government to introduce and to pass at an early date an Ordinance to amend the existing Marriage Ordinance. The coming into force of this measure will, so far as can reasonably be anticipated, make the year 1929 an important one in the history of the social relations existing in the Indian community. Marriages by Indian rites have long been recognised in the Colony provided certain formalities have been complied with. But actually few of these " customary " marriages have been legalised hitherto. The amending Ordinance which has the cordial support of the enlightened classes will make it illegal to go through the ceremony of marriage according to Indian rites without complying with the formalities prescribed by law. It remains to be seen whether compulsory registration will improve social relations to as great an extent as is hoped and anticipated. It appears evident that in Fiji absence of caste control, continued disparity in the numbers of the two sexes, and the existence of doubt whether a Colonial marriage will be recognised in India by the castes to which the parties belong, have discredited the marriage according to Hindu rites. The practice of performing an ostensibly binding ceremony before maturity has continued, and this often results in the handing over of the bride at a later date. In numerous cases, however, this early union is dissolved, and the parties seek other alliances which may or may not be legalised. The detrimental practice of insisting on the bridegroom living in the bride's house and of subsequently expelling him in favour of a second suitor if he proves troublesome is still not unknown. That social relations were unsatisfactory was the unanimous opinion of the Indian societies which made representations to the Commission which drew up the amending Ordinance. The present confusion is a fertile source of quarrels and litigation.

The great majority of registered marriages are technically marriages before the official registrar and in numerous cases are between men of mature age and girls over the age of 15. In a considerable percentage of these cases the girl has in all probability been married already to another partner and the object of the Court marriage is finally to dissolve the early irregular union.

Efforts are being made to facilitate compliance with the amended law, but traditional habits are hard to eradicate. They have their origin in the desire of parents to settle their daughter's future before she can be led astray and are blindly followed in spite of their evil results under Colonial conditions. A further raising of the age for the binding ceremony seems the obvious solution of the problem. This is already being advocated by reformers, but it will clearly be necessary for them to make strenuous efforts to educate the community up to the desired standard if the change is to be introduced without risk of friction and further confusion.

The question is being taken up of further adaptation to the needs of the Indian community of the law relating to marital relations. Amendments to the law of guardianship and that affecting the protection of minor girls are also under consideration.

The Indian population is mainly centred in the sugar-producing tracts and in Suva and its suburbs. Allowing for increases and movements since the census of 1921 approximate numbers by districts are :—in Ba, Nadi, and Macuata 8,000 to 10,000 each ; Suva and suburbs, 7,000 ; Rewa, 7,000 ; Lautoka, 5,000 ; Ra, Colo North, Nadroga, and Navua, 3,000 to 4,000 each ; with some smaller rice-producing settlements.

The great bulk of the population have developed from a condition of plantation labourers into a body of small farmers. More than two-thirds of the sugar area is in the hands of this class and the area retained by the Company is decreasing. Practically the whole of the area producing rice, maize, cotton, and arhar dal is held by Indian farmers.

Accurate figures of the total area held are not available, but, excluding some 25,000 acres held from the Sugar Company, the total of holdings of all sorts may be put at approximately 7,500. Of the new leases of Fijian lands sanctioned during the year about 200 were to Indians.

According to the returns the number of Indian traders and storekeepers rose last year from 1,117 to 1,517. Returns at present do not distinguish between renewals and fresh licences. 434 motor-cars are owned by Indians against 409 in 1927, and drivers' licences have increased from 716 to 1,554. The great bulk of the road carrying business is in Indian hands and, with the improvement in roads, lorry omnibus services are developing in the Suva-Rewa area and on the north-west coast of Vitilevu. Drivers' licences increased by over 400 in the Suva-Rewa area alone. Many licences are taken out for the purpose of occasional driving.

In spite of a somewhat prolonged dry spell in the latter half of the year the harvests of crops in which Indians are interested were not unfavourable. The recently developed Penang sugar tract was fortunate enough to enjoy a good harvest of cane with a very good sugar content.

Some damage to young cane was caused by the drought, but this was nowhere serious.

The rice harvest was fair everywhere and distinctly good in some areas. The drought seems to have had the effect of improving some of the wetter rice areas which receive in normal times insufficient seration. Prospects for the current year's crop appear at present very favourable. In spite of some fluctuations there seem good prospects of the cotton industry becoming established as an important factor in Indian agriculture outside the sugar area, though much will depend on the success of the new variety which is now the subject of experiment. A development which may prove of importance to Indian interests is the establishment of two factories for the canning of pineapples.

The question whether the present provisions of the Municipalities Ordinance affected Indian representation adversely was the subject of an enquiry by a Committee appointed by the Governor during the year. This Committee presented majority and minority reports and a Commission was appointed to enquire into certain allegations of unequal treatment made on one of the minority reports.

The revised Letters Patent providing for the election of three Indian members to the Legislative Council were received after the close of the year.

As will be seen from the educational section of this report the number of Indian schools established or assisted by Government has risen from 22 to 32 and the number of pupils in these from 1,680 to 2,530. Progress was made during the year in the task of revising the existing Education Ordinance largely with a view to improving the facilities for Indian education. It is the intention of the Government to introduce the amending Ordinance early in 1929, and a Rating Ordinance which will enable educational rates to be levied is in process of being drafted.

Meanwhile present conditions have been examined in detail and a programme for the establishment of Government schools for Indians has been drawn up. Existing provision for educational needs largely remains in private hands. Much interest and activity is displayed and a number of schools receive generous support from private individuals. But efforts are unfortunately apt to be unsystematic and lacking in co-ordination and the school too often becomes the battlefield of sectional quarrels and personal disputes. Efforts will have to be made in the immediate future to have the constitution of controlling bodies of assisted schools at least placed on a more satisfactory footing. Compromise and a determination to work for the common good will be essential if the very laudable efforts made to promote educational progress during the period when financial stringency left the task of Indian education largely in private hands are not to be frustrated.

Owing to the arrival in December of the s.s. *Sutlej* for the repatriation voyage of 1929, repatriation arrangements had to be made on two occasions during the year.

This vessel arrived for the first time on 12th April with 781 persons on board. Of these 350 (134 men, 91 women, 67 boys, and 58 girls) belonged to families of re-emigrants who had previously been in Fiji and these were brought out at the expense of the Fiji Government. This experiment was undertaken at the suggestion of the Government of India owing to reports that a number of Fiji repatriates in Calcutta were clamouring for assistance to return to the Colony. Unfortunately the officer deputed to India to make arrangements was unable to do more than make a selection from the repatriates in Calcutta. According to information received which has since been confirmed by the Honourable Badri Mahraj, a Nominated Member of the Fiji Legislative Council, on his return from a visit to his home in the United Provinces, considerable numbers of repatriates in up-country districts would have welcomed assistance to re-emigrate. Mr. Badri Mahraj was especially invited by a delegation to visit the Basti district and found there numbers of repatriates eager to get back to Fiji.

Except for a few persons from up-country who had managed to find their way to Calcutta the bulk of the re-immigrants were repatriates who had been unable to return to their homes and were working in Calcutta docks. The re-emigrants on arrival in Fiji were absorbed at once into the population. The majority found their way to the sugar areas, and there can be little doubt that the demand for repatriation later in the year was largely due to the stories spread by them of their experiences in India after years spent in a foreign country. The proportion of women and children to the total number of re-emigrants was satisfactory and it is interesting to note that several gave as their reason for return that conditions of life in Fiji were so much easier and the climate was so much healthier for children. One effect of this experiment has been that the second repatriation list included some 30 or 40 men who were availing themselves of the repatriation concession to visit their homes, but who left their families behind settled on their farms and who took out passports to ensure their easy return. The experiment was financed from the accumulated balance of the old Immigration Fund which has not been utilised since organised immigration ceased.

The arrivals in April also included as paying passengers a batch of 206 immigrants from the Eastern Punjab and some 179 Bombay traders.

The *Sutlej* sailed again on 21st April with 973 persons on board including 49 paying passengers. The number of the repatriates reckoned as "statute adults" fell short of the complement contracted for by 66½. There was no rush for repatriation and in several districts less than half of the original offers of berths made to those who had registered for repatriation were taken up.

Deposits for remittance to Calcutta amounted to £27,108 or £42 per adult. An attempt to assist repatriates to get their savings remitted to their districts of destination to obviate risk of loss on the journey did not prove successful. Repatriates are afraid of difficulties over drawing the money once they leave the protection of those known to them, and are cautious about appearing in their homes with considerable sums to their credit. The repatriates included 13 lepers, 49 invalids, and 68 persons classed as paupers having declared themselves to be possessed of less than £5 in cash or jewellery.

The vessel sailed with a clean bill of health, but measles broke out during the voyage and 9 cases occurred. There was 1 death from dysentery.

The *Sutlej* arrived for the second time on the last day of the year with 783 paying passengers on board, a record number in the history of immigration to Fiji. Of these 462 came from the Eastern Punjab. These were mainly Jat Sikhs from the Nawashahar sub-division of the Jullundar district. There are indications of these Punjabi immigrants becoming an important element in the Indian community in Fiji. The numbers of this class arriving by each of the last three repatriation vessels have been 95,206 and 462 respectively.

They are enterprising colonists and are doing well both in the sugar areas and elsewhere, but at present the immigrants are mainly young men belonging to families of petty proprietors immigrating to improve their fortunes and it remains to be seen whether they will develop family immigration. Otherwise their advent will have a disturbing effect on the sex proportion of the Indian community, which has been progressively improving. Of the other immigrants, 237 were Bombay (mostly Gujarati) traders, jewellers, shoemakers, tailors, and the like. 56 of the immigrants came from the United Provinces and 27 from Madras, including a fair number who had been in Fiji before.

The account of arrangements for the return voyage of January, 1929, will form part of the annual report for 1929, but it may be mentioned here that it proved exceptionally difficult to find sufficient repatriates to fill the vessel which had actually to sail with only 546 repatriates on board and 107 paying passengers, a decrease of 378 in the number of persons exercising the right of repatriation at the expense of the Government. This very marked decrease may have been partly due to the short interval between the two voyages, but there can be little doubt that the return of the re-emigrants in 1928 had a great effect in convincing Indian colonists in Fiji that repatriation is an adventure not lightly to be undertaken.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20.30 and 03.30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° Fahr. 45 degrees Lat. and Mean Sea-Level was 29.867″; the highest recorded being 30.130″ on 10th August, and the lowest 29.583″ on 14th and 15th January.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest readings and the dates of their occurrences :—

Months.	*Monthly Means.*	*Highest Recorded.*	*Date.*	*Lowest Recorded.*	*Date.*
January	29·736″	29·879″	2nd	29·583″	14th and 15th.
February	29·817″	29·953″	8th	29·652″	1st.
March...	29·783″	29·974″	24th.	29·601″	18th.
April	29·864″	30·003″	28th.	29·737″	3rd.
May	29·877″	29·976″	4th.	29·706″	25th.
June	29·918″	30·029″	6th.	29·769″	10th.
July	29·894″	30·040″	13th.	29·641″	20th.
August	29·996″	30·130″	10th.	29·815″	26th.
September	29·940″	30·069″	19th.	29·786″	4th.
October	29·902″	30·064″	11th.	29·785″	24th.
November	29·886″	30·030″	3rd.	29·685″	21st.
December	29·783″	29·893″	2nd.	29·709″	13th.

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 77.5° Fahr., the highest recorded being 94° on 1st January, and the lowest 62° on 24th July.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 77, the greatest, namely 100 per cent., being recorded on the 28th February and 19th December. The lowest recorded was 44 per cent. on 1st November. Humidity of 44 per cent. is exceptionally low for the tropics. A drought was experienced in Fiji generally from the last few days in May up to 13th December, when the drought broke definitely. Conditions with regard to the water supply were at times acute.

The following table gives the mean monthly temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures, and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentage of relative humidity, and the highest and lowest recorded, together with the dates of their occurrences during each month of the year.

Months.	*Temperature in Shade.*					*Humidity—(Saturation=100).*				
	Mean.	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*	*Mean.*	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*
						%	%		%	
January...	81·6°	94°	1	72°	17, 22	75·6	95	13	59	21, 22
February	80·2°	91°	27	71°	4	79·8	100	28	60	12
March ...	81·3°	92°	13	73°	28, 31	82·6	99	1	56	11
April ...	78·5°	86°	27	72°	13, 21 22, 30	86·3	95	11, 25	67	20
May ...	77·5°	87°	7, 17, 28	68°	7	83·2	96	11	66	30
June ...	74·5°	86°	10	63°	15	74·0	98	20	58	5, 8
July ...	73·4°	85°	3, 30	62°	24	73·8	97	2, 9	55	17
August	73·0°	84°	1, 7	64°	18	77·4	97	8	49	31
September	76·1°	90°	4	65°	1	74·1	96	13	55	1
October...	77·2°	92°	31	67°	11, 25	70·4	93	2	47	9
November	76·2°	85°	1, 2	65°	8	69·9	96	17	44	1
December	80·6°	91°	26	71°	2, 3	77·2	100	19	60	7

Rainfall, Winds, etc.—The table on page 65 gives the rainfall for 1928 at Suva, together with the number of wind observations, hailstorms, thunderstorms, gales, &c., for each month of the year. The total amount of rainfall for October, viz., 1.57 inches, during the period of drought, is 6.71 inches below normal. This, however, does not constitute the least amount of rain ever recorded for October, 0.51 being recorded in the year 1884.

The following tables give the rainfall at different stations in the wet and dry districts of Fiji for the year 1928, together with the average rainfall over a period of years as stated in the first Column in each Table.

Wet Districts.

No. of years. (1)	*Station.* (2)	*Province.* (3)	*Average yearly rainfall.* (4)	*Rainfall* 1928. (5)
49	Wainunu	Bua	148·54	117·34
22	Valeci	Cakandrove	102·78	91·79
9	Vuna	,,	116·89	98·23
22	Waiyevo	,,	98·96	104·48
24	Rabi	,,	143·79	115·55
16	Vunidawa	Colo East	142·19	136·44
28	Nadarivatu	Colo North	128·81	106·62
12	Naitonitoni	Serua	129·13	117·66
3	Wainivesi	Tailevu	164·40	—
34	Nausori	,,	114·50	128·49
24	Rotuma	Rotuma	138·90	131·48
2	Navuso	Naitasiri	122·68	126·43
44	Suva	Rewa	117·02	113·83
12	Buca Bay	Cakandrove	95·72	—
34	Levuka	Lomaiviti	91·08	66·53
1	Devo	Cakandrove	—	99·90
9	Mua	,,	108·90	94·94
11	Nabawalu	Bua	105·84	104·48
11	Salialevu	Cakandrove	213·20	—

Dry Districts.

No. of years. (1)	*Station.* (2)	*Province.* (3)	*Average yearly rainfall.* (4)	*Rainfall* 1928. (5)
34	Rarawai	Ba	81·78	78·77
28	Lautoka	Ba	68·34	62·25
33	Munia	Lau	70·09	72·98
5	Nabavatu	,,	77·60	—
5	Lakeba	,,	78·91	99·97
27	Navo	Nadi	64·25	69·42
15	Richmond	Kadavu	67·46	64·94
22	Lawaqa	Nadroga	69·02	85·29
13	Makogai	Lomaiviti	81·63	—
1	Gau	,,	70·10	70·10
44	Penang	Ra	81·90	88·61
2	Sigatoka Cotton Stn.	Nadroga	76·26	78·03
34	Labasa	Macuata	81·49	76·32

Thus the wet district average is 126.73″ and the dry 77.24″, but it must be taken into consideration that the heaviest rainfall takes place during the hurricane season, viz., November to April, both

Months.	Rainfall.			Weather. Number of days of							Wind. Number of Observations of																		
	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Hail.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.		Overcast.		Gales.	N.		N.E.		E.		S.E.		S.		S.W.		W.		N.W.		Calms.	
							8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30		8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30	8·30	3·30
January ...	9·65	1·75	8	24	—	2	1	—	11	13	—	1	2	2	—	6	9	8	13	5	6	4	1	1	—	—	—	4	—
February ...	12·87	3·58	16	22	—	1	2	—	13	14	—	5	3	11	4	7	12	3	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3	3
March ...	16·39	5·62	23	24	—	—	1	1	13	14	—	7	2	7	8	5	11	1	5	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	10	1
April	17·10	4·16	12	27	—	—	—	—	15	18	—	2	3	11	4	9	17	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	3	4	1
May	13·64	4·79	25	21	—	1	4	4	8	16	—	1	1	9	6	3	5	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	15	1
June	2·17	0·68	19	11	—	—	4	2	8	9	—	5	1	5	5	2	12	3	3	3	6	1	3	1	—	3	—	7	—
July	5·56	2·21	9	20	—	1	6	5	8	6	—	7	3	4	6	7	13	2	4	1	3	1	2	1	—	1	—	7	—
August ...	7·18	2·16	10	20	—	—	2	1	13	20	—	—	2	7	3	9	16	4	5	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	9	1
September ...	4·15	1·14	12	15	—	1	—	—	9	9	—	7	2	7	5	6	17	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	1
October ...	1·57	0·40	20	13	—	—	2	5	7	9	—	1	—	2	2	14	19	3	6	2	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	5	2
November ...	6·14	1·97	19	16	—	—	1	3	13	12	—	1	1	4	3	13	13	4	10	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
December ...	17·41	4·37	21	20	—	4	—	—	11	13	—	7	3	12	7	7	17	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2
Year ...	113·83	—	—	233	—	10	23	21	129	153	—	44	23	81	53	88	161	32	64	15	24	12	10	5	2	9	6	80	13

inclusive. During these months the precipitation in 1927 was 62 per cent. of the total rainfall for the year. For the dry district the heaviest rainfall is also within the same period, but the proportion of the total precipitation is greater, being in 1927 equal to 72 per cent. of the annual fall. It will be readily seen, therefore, that the difference between the seasons is much more distinctly marked in the dry district, with the consequence that the planters vary considerably their methods of cultivation in the two districts.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During the year 1928 forty-nine Ordinances were passed. Several of these were minor amending Ordinances. The principal Ordinances of public interest are :—

The Pensions Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 9 provides for the pensions of public officers and is on the lines of legislation recently passed in other Crown Colonies. The majority of the Colonies have been scheduled by Fiji.

The Copra (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 16 forbids the purchase of green copra in certain areas by unlicensed persons. Licences to purchase green copra may be issued to licensees who satisfy the Superintendent of Agriculture that they have established proper plant for drying copra.

The Drugs and Poisons (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 17 regulates the import, export, transit, and diversion of opiates.

The Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 27 provides for the registration of Indian Customary Marriages.

The Brands Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 32 provides for the registration of brands and the regulation of the use of brands used for marking cattle. The impression of a registered brand is *prima facie* evidence of ownership.

The Trespass Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 33 provides for the fencing of cattle. The occupier of land within five miles of the Municipalities of Suva and Levuka must keep his cattle confined by a fence. In other areas a District Commissioner may on the complaint of three separate owners or occupiers of land that cattle in the district constitute a nuisance by reason of trespass committed by them, order the owner to confine the cattle with a fence or destroy or remove them from the district. Provision is made for compensation to be paid by the owner of trespassing cattle.

The Stamp Duties (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 34 empowers the Governor-in-Council to exempt cheques supplied by Banks from being stamped in consideration of periodical payments of the amount of duty payable in respect of the cheques.

The Boy Scouts Association Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 37 forbids the unauthorised wearing of the uniform of the Boy Scouts Association, or the organisation of any unauthorised body of Boy Scouts.

The Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 39 closely follows the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act, 1895, the Married Women (Maintenance) Act, 1920, and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act, 1925.

The Larceny Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 40 is a consolidation of the English legislation of 1861–1916 on the subject of larceny.

The Quarantine Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 42 is based on the Australian Commonwealth Quarantine Acts, 1908–1927. It accords with the recommendations of the International Sanitary Conference, 1926.

The Townships Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 44 empowers the Governor to declare any area not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance 1909 to be a township. The Ordinance provides for Townships Boards appointed by the Governor. The Boards have charge of certain sanitary and drainage services the charges for which are paid into a Township Fund from which the expenses are defrayed.

The Customs Duties Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 47 sets out the tariff on imported goods. Substantial preference is given to goods of British manufacture.

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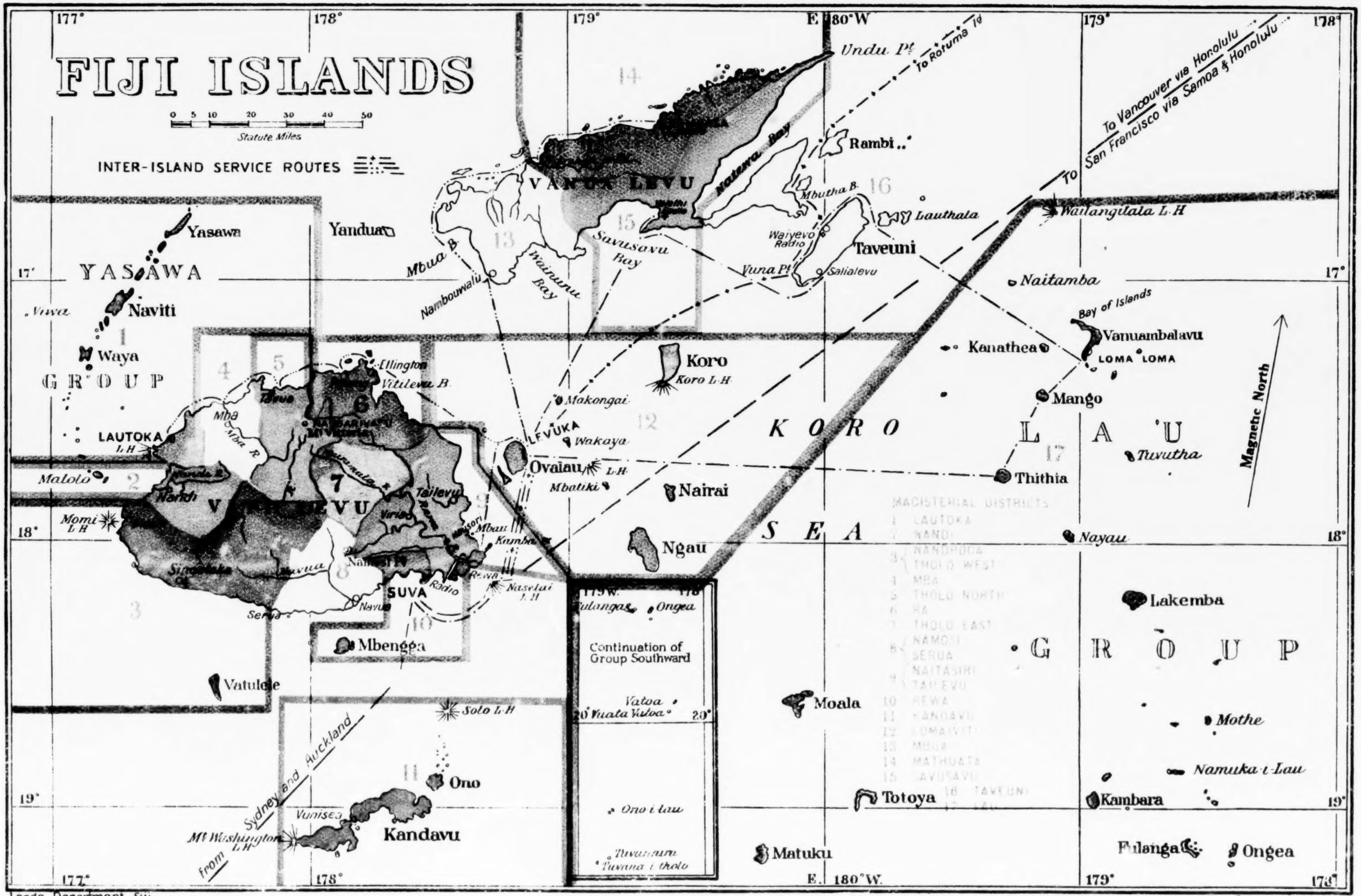
FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Statute Miles
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
177°
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18°
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20°
Undu Pt
To Rotuma Id
To Vancouver via Honolulu
To San Francisco via Samoa & Honolulu
Rambi
Natewa Bay
Mbutha B.
Lauthala
Waiyevo Radio
Taveuni
Vuna Pt
Salialevu
VANUA LEVU
Savusavu Bay
Wainunu Bay
Mbua B.
Nambouwalu
Yandua
Yasawa
YASAWA
Naviti
Viwa
Waya
GROUP
LAUTOKA
L.H
Mba
Mba R.
Malolo
Nandi
Momi L.H
VITI LEVU
Sigatoka
Navua
Serua
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SUVA
Radio
Rewa
Naselai L.H
Nausori
Mbau
Kamba
Tailevu
Ellington
Vitileva B.
Tavua
Mt Victoria
Levuka
Ovalau
L.H
Mbatiki
Makongai
Wakaya
Koro
Koro L.H
Nairai
Ngau
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H
Ono
Kandavu
Vunisea
Mt Washington L.H
from Sydney and Auckland
Wailangilala L.H
Naitamba
Bay of Islands
Vanuambalavu
LOMA LOMA
Kanathea
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
KORO SEA
LAU GROUP
Nayau
Lakemba
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
Mothe
Namuka i Lau
Kambara
Fulanga
Ongea
Magnetic North
Continuation of Group Southward
179°W.
178°
Fulanga
Ongea
Vatoa
Vuata Vatoa
Ono i Lau
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo
1
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17
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
1 LAUTOKA
2 NANDI
3 NANDRONGA
THOLO WEST
4 MBA
5 THOLO NORTH
6 RA
7 THOLO EAST
8 NAMOSI
SERUA
9 NAITASIRI
TAILEVU
10 REWA
11 KANDAVU
12 LOMAIVITI
13 MBUA
14 MATHUATA
15 SAVUSAVU
16 TAVEUNI
17 LAU

Lands Department, Fiji.

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1929.

PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The Fijian group, which lies between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east, comprises about 250 islands, of which about 80 are inhabited. The largest island is Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities through out the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu; the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

The climate is comparatively cool for the tropics, and there is no malaria.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller interinsular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Historical.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under investigation by research students; in the meantime the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter*, of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew, he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal state. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign state of Cakaudrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society; and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858". The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton, caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated the 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, three other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance, 1928, gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board, whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In each of the country districts there is a Road Board, under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner, who is responsible for the maintenance of the roads in that district. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Section XII, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted as the official language. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 73,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,400 speaks Cantonese.

Currency.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which, with the Government currency notes issue, is the legal tender of the Colony.

The natives refuse to recognize copper coins, and in country stores threepence is usually the lowest charge. The number of pennies in circulation is consequently small.

Weights and Measures.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave, prior to retirement, on the 18th April, 1929. Mr. A. W. Seymour, V.D., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government until November. His Excellency Sir Murchison Fletcher, Kt., C.M.G., C.B.E., arrived in the Colony on the 21st November and assumed the administration of the Government on that date.

His Honour Sir A. K. Young, K.C., Chief Justice, left the Colony on leave, prior to retirement, on the 15th February. His successor, His Honour Captain Maxwell Anderson, C.B.E., K.C., R.N., arrived in the Colony on the 5th September.

The new Letters Patent providing for the government of the Colony came into force on the 1st May. For the first time in the history of the Colony the privilege of the franchise was extended to the Indian community, who were given the right to elect, on a communal electoral roll, three members to the Legislative Council.

The first elections under the new Letters Patent were held in September, and the new Council met on the 25th October. Early in the session the Indian elected members proposed the following motion :—

> That the Council recommends to His Excellency the Acting Governor that he be pleased to convey by telegraphic message to His Majesty's Government the view of this Council :—
>
> > (*a*) that political rights and status granted to Indian settlers in this Colony on racial lines are not acceptable to them ; and
> >
> > (*b*) that Indians in Fiji should be granted common franchise along with other British subjects resident in the Colony.

The motion was opposed by the nominated members, the European elected members, and the Fijian members. The three Indian members thereupon resigned their seats. Fresh writs of election were issued, but no nominations were received, and the three seats remain vacant.

A list of the more important Ordinances passed during the year is given in Section XV.

The trade of the Colony for 1929 shows a slight decrease in imports, and a decrease in exports to the value of nearly a million pounds, the total trade falling from £4,184,420 to £3,244,607. The 1929 figure was, however, higher than that for either 1926 or 1927. The drop in the value of exports in 1929 as compared with 1928, which was a record year, is more than accounted for by the decrease in the quantity of sugar exported, the result of unusually dry weather conditions, and by the low prices obtained.

The proportion of trade with the United Kingdom is still increasing, the percentage of imports rising from 27.28 in 1928 to 28.50 in 1929.

More than twice the quantity of butter was exported during the year than during the previous year. The exports of copra were 5,000 tons higher than in 1928, but prices were consistently low, and the value fell short of the 1928 figure by over £3,000.

Agriculture is the only source of the Colony's wealth and is dealt with in detail under the appropriate head in this report. Sugar cane is the most valuable crop, with coconuts and bananas next in importance. Rice is grown extensively for home consumption, the bulk of the crop being milled at the Government Rice Mill. Pineapple canning is a young industry which promises to become of considerable importance, two pineapple companies are already operating in the Colony, and a third is conducting experiments with a view to beginning operations on an extensive scale. Dairying and stock-raising are industries which are being built up in districts not suited for sugar or copra cultivation, and are capable of considerable expansion.

Following the success of the campaign to control, by biological means, the spread of the coconut leaf moth, *Levuana iridescens*, in coconut plantations, the Agricultural Department has turned its attention to the noxious weed, *Clidemia hirta*, which infests large areas of land otherwise suitable for cultivation. Biological control by means of parasites is being attempted, and the Government Entomologist has introduced from Trinidad numbers of *Liothrips urichi*, which have been successfully liberated in infested areas. It is too early yet to determine whether the experiment will be successful.

Tourist traffic is still increasing, but is hampered by the lack of good road communications and of hotel or rest-house accommodation away from Suva. Since 1925 there has been an average annual increase in arrivals in the Colony of about 500 persons, the number of visitors spending two days or more in the Colony in 1929 being 4,430, a record figure. The majority of visitors come from Australia and New Zealand during the southern winter.

The Fiji Agricultural and Horticultural Show, held on two days in October, attracted over 2,000 entries, and was visited by over 5,000 people. The Show, which is subsidized by the Government, is now definitely established as an annual event of great interest and benefit to the Colony.

A severe hurricane passed through the Group on 11th and 12th December, causing serious damage to buildings and property on Vanua Levu and the outlying islands. The hurricane was followed by unprecedented floods, which caused considerable loss to property and live stock. Fortunately there was little loss of life, and comparatively little damage to shipping.

The estimated population of Fiji and Rotuma combined on the 31st December, 1929, was 180,005. Of this number 91,711 were Fijians and 73,121 were Indians, comprising 50.95 per cent. and 40.62 per cent. respectively of the total population. The remaining 8.43 per cent. of the population includes 4,726 Europeans, 2,266 Rotumans, 2,258 other Pacific islanders, and 1,464 Chinese.

These figures, compared with the 1921 Census Returns, show that the population has increased during the last eight years by 22,739, an aggregate rate of increase of 14.46 per cent. The following is a table analysing the estimated increase of population since the last Census taken in 1921 :—

Class of Population.	1921 *Census.*	*Estimated* 31/12/29.	*Increase.*	*Per cent.*
Europeans	**3,878**	**4,726**	**848**	**21·87**
Half-caste	**2,781**	**3,281**	**500**	**17·98**
Fijians	**84,475**	**91,711**	**7,236**	**8·57**
Rotumans	**2,235**	**2,266**	**31**	**1·39**
Other South Pacific Islanders...	**1,564**	**2,258**	**694**	**44·37**
Indians	**60,634**	**73,121**	**12,487**	**20·59**
Chinese	**910**	**1,464**	**554**	**60·88**
Others	**789**	**1,178**	**389**	**49·30**
Totals ...	**157,266**	**180,005**	**22,739**	**14·46**

It is noticeable that the increase in the Indian population is being steadily maintained. The population of Native Rotumans has, since the first census was taken in 1881, remained practically stationary. Rotuma lies well outside the established trade routes and consequently is little affected by migration.

The distribution of the population on the 31st December, 1929, was Fiji, 177,594; Rotuma 2,411. There were 23.93 persons to the square mile in Fiji and 172.21 to the square mile in Rotuma.

The average birth rate per thousand of the total population for the year 1929 was 32.79, and the average death rate was 17.60. The following table shows the average birth and death rate per thousand for the years 1925 to 1929 :—

Class of Population.	*Birth Rate per* 1,000.					*Death Rate per* 1,000.				
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
European...	16·68	18·16	24·78	17·42	19·88	9·08	9·32	9·60	7·62	8·46
Half-castes	29·65	31·91	23·08	32·56	35·96	7·33	12·69	7·37	9·39	9·44
Fijians ...	32·29	33·95	32·53	33·36	31·91	22·75	23·09	22·98	24·95	24·66
Indians ...	33·14	32·65	27·72	34·00	34·86	7·25	8·26	9·42	10·80	9·06
Rotumans	56·97	48·95	50·47	52·21	50·75	64·38	28·29	36·29	51·77	48·10

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the last five years :—

Class of population.	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Europeans	28	38	34	47	46
Half-castes...	22	14	16	41	28
Fijians	857	708	760	906	973
Indians	174	195	254	276	879
Rotumans	23	37	28	11	27

A feature of this return is the very large increase in the number of Indian marriages during 1929. This number includes 184 Indian customary marriages registered under the Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance, 1928.

An interesting comparison of the population at the Census of 24th April, 1921, and of the estimated population at the end of 1929 is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	*Area in square miles.*	*Whites.*		*Coloured Population.*		*Total.*		*Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.*	*Population to the Square Mile.*	*Persons employed in*			*Births. Number and Rate per 1,000.*	*Marriages.*	*Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.*
		Males.	*Females*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Males*	*Females*			*Agriculture.*	*Manufactures and Industrial.*	*Professional and Commercial*			
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.															
Europeans Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878		—	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—
Europeans Rotuma	14	23	7	—	—										
Half-castes Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781		—	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—
Half-castes Rotuma	—	—	—	29	23										
Fijians	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475		—	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—
Indians	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634		—	8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—
Polynesians	—	—	—	1,271	293	1,564		—	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235		—	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	—	—	—	845	65	910		—	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	431	358	789		—	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—
Totals ...	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266		—	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1929.															
													Number. Rate.		*Number. Rate*
Europeans Fiji ...	—	2,526	2,176	—	—	4,702		Nil	·64	—	—	—	94—19·88	46	40—8·46
Europeans Rotuma	—	13	11	—	—	24									
Half-castes Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,673	1,571	3,244		Do.	·44	—	—	—	118—35·96	28	31—9·44
Half-castes Rotuma	—	—	—	24	13	37									
Fijians	—	—	—	47,243	44,468	91,711		Do.	12·33	—	—	—	2,927—31·91	973	2,244—24·66
Polynesians	—	—	—	1,772	486	2,258		Do.	·30	—	—	—	47—20·81	6	57—25·24
Indians	—	—	—	43,859	29,262	73,121		Do.	9·83	—	—	—	2,549—34·86	879†	663—9·06
Rotumans (Rotuma)	—	—	—	1,111	1,155	2,266		Do.	161·86	—	—	—	115—50·75	27	109—48·10
Chinese	—	—	—	1,352	112	1,464		Do.	·20	—	—	—	28—19·12	—	6—4·09
Others ... Fiji ...	—	—	—	708	386	1,094		Do.	·16	—	—	—	25—21·22	7	19—16·12
Others ... Rotuma	—	—	—	60	24	84									
Totals ...	7,435	2,539	2,187	97,802	77,477	—		—	24·21	—	—	—	5,903—32·79	1,966	3,169—17·60
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	180,005		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† This includes 184 Indian Customary Marriages registered under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1928.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925 ...	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453	—
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	—	194,249

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 an accumulated surplus of £194,249. From this, it will be seen that during the years mentioned the very satisfactory improvement in the Colony's position of £437,730 was effected. These figures are, however, exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of 1929 at £108,829—an improvement in this case of £34,547.

An item in the Colony's Balance Sheet which appears both as an asset and a liability is the before-mentioned Immigration Fund of £108,829. Except for the fact that this sum is earmarked for a specific purpose, it is a free asset, which, added to the shown surplus of assets over liabilities of £194,249, makes the Colony's available accumulated funds on Revenue Account £303,078.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied during the last seven or eight years, and placed upon a wider and more equitable basis, only a slight increase has been introduced, yet not only has the financial position been consolidated, and satisfactory reserves accumulated, but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which must directly affect the welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	441,583
Assets :—	
Gold reserve (sovereigns)	88,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1929)	399,975
Depreciation Fund Investments	35,616
	£524,072

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1929, £82,489.

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1929 produced a net surplus of £15,418, as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		19,838
Expenses	630	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,790	
		4,420
Surplus		£15,418

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1929, was as under :—

	£
Consolidated and Funding Loan	765,000
Public Purposes Loan	80,204
Total	£845,204

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent. and being issued at 101.

A further loan of £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. During the year £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance will be provided when required. This is a par loan bearing interest at 5 per cent.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,500,000, while that of the latter is £6,771,198. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,031,407, and by the Bank of New Zealand, £340,051.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 6,918 to 9,024, while the amount of deposits made during the year decreased from £158,202 to £149,292. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £5,161 less than the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1928.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1929, was £170,190, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1929) ...	172,182	
Cash in hand	926	
		173,108
Surplus		£2,918

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1929 were as follows:—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		8,764
Interest credited to Depositors ...	5,410	
Salaries	1,370	
Expenses	121	
		6,901
Surplus		£1,863

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Weather conditions generally were favourable during the greater part of the year, although a severe storm in January caused some damage to the young cotton plants, and late rains with dull weather affected subsequent plantings. The cyclonic storm in December and the subsequent floods occasioned considerable damage to bananas and cotton in Vitilevu and coconuts in parts of Vanualevu, Taveuni and other islands. Breadfruit and other native food crops were seriously affected in parts of the Group.

Sugar Cane.

The output of the Colony's five mills, in 1929, was rather less than 90,000 tons, which was somewhat below normal. The reduction was mainly due to dry weather conditions which adversely affected the crop in the earlier stages of its growth. The cane crop escaped serious damage in the storm and floods in December but considerable losses accrued by damage to buildings, floating stock, and sugar awaiting shipment.

In common with other British Colonies which produce sugar, Fiji felt the severe depression which has existed in the world's markets for the past year, and without the preferential treatment granted to Empire sugar in the markets of Great Britain and Canada the position of the industry would have been serious.

A representative of the Fiji sugar industry attended the sittings in the West Indies of the West Indian Sugar Commission over which Lord Olivier presided.

The policy of the sugar manufacturers in subdividing their estates into ten to twelve acre farms, which are leased to peasants, has been continued. The results obtained may be considered satisfactory, seeing that production has been maintained, but there is still scope for further activity in this direction as the agricultural population increases. At the present time 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the crop is produced by Indian farmers growing cane on land leased either from the native owners or the mill proprietors, and encouragement is also being given to Fijians to extend their cane growing operations.

The following table shows the exports of sugar for the past five years :—

1925	91,744 tons.
1926	56,991 tons.
1927	72,753 tons.
1928	120,683 tons.
1929	72,275 tons.

(Note : The exports for 1928 included a carry-over of 42,000 tons from 1927.)

Shipments in 1929 were divided as follows :—

Canada	45,020 tons.
United Kingdom	21,989 tons.
New Zealand	4,783 tons.
Other countries	483 tons.

Copra.

The quantity of copra exported during 1929 amounted to 33,226 tons, which constitutes a record for this product. The increase in the export of copra is largely due to the successful campaign of pest control and of improved cultural methods for native plantations actively pursued by the Coconut Committee and its staff. The major pest of coconuts, *Levuana iridescens*, is now definitely controlled, and the position in regard to scale (*Aspidiotus sp.*) is improved. The scientific staff of the Coconut Committee is now engaged on the control of the Spathe borer (*Tirathaba trichogramma*) and the Leaf Miner (*Promecotheca reicheii*).

Unfortunately the increased production of copra was counterbalanced by a decline in market values throughout the year.

Exports for the last five years have been :—

1925	24,133 tons.
1926	27,868 tons.
1927	26,560 tons.
1928	27,947 tons.
1929	33,226 tons.

Bananas.

The exports of bananas during the past five years have been as follows :—

	Bunches.
1925	565,623
1926	564,397
1927	544,359
1928	521,003
1929	384,858

The Department of Agriculture is pursuing an active campaign directed to the improvement of existing native banana plantations and the establishment of new plantations. During the year 164 acres of old fields were cleared and 274 acres newly planted.

The Australian market still remains closed owing to the heavy import duty on fruit imposed by the Commonwealth Government in 1921.

Cotton.

Adverse weather conditions and two severe storms caused serious damage to the cotton crops. A total of 344,399 lb. of seed cotton was purchased at the two ginneries, and 279 bales of 350 lb. each of lint were pressed.

Production of cotton since the revival of the industry has been :—

	Bales of Approx. 350 lb.
1923	101
1924	180
1925	136
1926	919
1927	404
1928	124
1929	279

Seed selection and multiplication have been continued at the Cotton Experimental Station, and ratooning experiments with the object of comparing fields from annual and ratoon plants were undertaken. The work on the cotton station was hampered by the storms and floods, but, in spite of set-backs, valuable results were obtained.

The supply of a suitable type of cotton which will replace Sea-island and yield good returns under the comparatively humid conditions of Fiji appears to be in sight.

Dairying.

This industry continues to progress and may now be regarded as firmly established, although much remains to be done to improve its economic position. The local demand is now fully met by the three companies operating, and a small surplus is exported. The output of butter is increasing steadily, and export markets are being explored. Increased production, and reduction of costs of production by pasture improvement, herd testing, and selection on a butter-fat basis, will contribute to the prosperity of those engaged in dairying.

Production for the past five years has been :—	*Lb. of Butter.*
1925	168,844
1926	247,724
1927	295,677
1928	307,989
1929	392,214

Exports have amounted to :—	*Lb. of Butter.*
1925	23,856
1926	58,800
1927	54,208
1928	34,048
1929	79,968

Pineapple Canning.

During the year the two pineapple companies erected factories and canned the limited quantity of fruit available. The areas under pineapple cultivation adjacent to the canneries are being rapidly extended, and considerably increased quantities of fruit will be available for the next canning season. The quality of the canned fruit is reported as being very high.

Representatives of the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. arrived during the year, and experimental operations on the two large areas over which the Company holds options were undertaken. All the plants available have been used in planting up a number of small areas, the object being to test each class of soil.

128,210 lb. of canned pines were exported during the year.

Rice.

A large quantity of paddy was produced during the year, and the purchases made by the Government Rice Mill, totalling 1,461 tons, constitute a record. The Colony is not yet self-supporting, and large quantities of rice have to be imported to meet the demand.

In addition to the Government Rice Mill, there are a number of small mills operating in the Colony, and the Indian growers prepare large quantities for sale in primitive hand mills. It is not possible to state the total production of paddy in the Colony or the amount of rice consumed.

Cattle.

The number of cattle in the Colony is estimated to be about 70,000. As a result of the increasing success of the dairying industry, and the establishment of meat canning works, the live stock industry is showing progress. Numbers of pure bred bulls are being imported and local breeders of pure bred stock, particularly of the dairy breeds, are having less trouble in disposing of their stock. The Government assists stock breeders by paying a sum of £7 per head on all pure bred stock imported, subject to certain conditions. Cattle are run on most of the coconut plantations.

Meat Cannery.

The meat cannery erected in 1928 has continued operations, and its products are finding a ready sale, locally and in the adjoining groups. The output of the cannery was 128,628 lb., 32,818 lb. being exported.

Mining.

Mining is still confined to prospecting operations, and no payable deposit of any precious metal, mineral or mineral oil has yet been found. Thirty-two Prospecting Licences were in force at the end of the year.

Regulations under the Oil Mines Ordinance, 1915, were in process of consideration during the year. No Oil Prospecting Licences have been issued.

Forestry.

Most of the forest lands in the Colony are owned by the natives, who may make contracts for timber cutting rights, subject to the approval of the Government, under the provisions of the Forest Ordinance, 1913. The estimated quantity of local timber milled during 1929 was 2,500,000 super. feet, of which only 7,105 super. feet were exported. The question of the appointment of a trained Forestry Officer, and a small staff, to initiate and organise a Forestry Service is under consideration by the Government, and in the meantime the approval of new timber cutting licences has been suspended.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1929 amounted to £3,244,607, of which the value of imports was £1,468,609 and of exports £1,775,998. The value of imports in 1929 was less than that of 1928 by £14,560, while the value of exports was less than that of 1928 by £925,253. In 1928 the value of exports exceeded the value of imports by £1,218,082, and in 1929 the balance of trade in favour of the Colony amounted to £307,389.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420
1929	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607

Imports.

During the period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

Country.		1925 £	1926 £	1927 £	1928 £	1929 £
United Kingdom	...	**332,080**	**444,047**	**316,824**	**404,718**	**418,570**
Australia	...	**576,260**	**607,171**	**528,740**	**621,396**	**543,963**
Canada	...	**42,128**	**59,633**	**51,105**	**70,262**	**84,822**
India	...	**25,423**	**48,161**	**45,253**	**44,613**	**69,222**
New Zealand ...	...	**117,413**	**142,225**	**124,775**	**140,697**	**140,418**
Japan	...	**13,314**	**30,067**	**13,454**	**28,811**	**23,576**
United States ...	...	**143.089**	**123,574**	**122,470**	**131,994**	**121,441**
Dutch East Indies	...	—	—	—	—	**20,746**

The preceding figures show that during the years mentioned the proportion of total import trade done with the several countries was as under :—

Country.		1925 Per cent.	1926 Per cent.	1927 Per cent.	1928 Per cent.	1929 Per cent.
United Kingdom	...	**26·12**	**29·99**	**25·90**	**27·28**	**28·50**
Australia	...	**45·33**	**41·00**	**43·22**	**41·90**	**37·04**
Canada	...	**3·30**	**4·03**	**4·18**	**4·19**	**5·77**
India	...	**2·00**	**3·25**	**3·70**	**3·00**	**4·03**
New Zealand ...	...	**9·24**	**9·60**	**10·20**	**9·48**	**9·56**
Japan	...	**1·05**	**2·03**	**1·09**	**1·94**	**1·60**
United States ...	...	**11·26**	**8·34**	**10·02**	**8·90**	**8·20**
Dutch East Indies	...	—	—	—	—	**1·41**

The United Kingdom is the main source of our general imports.

These cover practically every class of goods and include sugar machinery, steam and oil engines, railway track, canning machinery, steel and metal bars and sheets, paints and oils, cement, hardware, enamelled ware, cutlery, clothing, piece goods, preserves, etc., but no trade is done in power or illuminating oils nor foodstuffs other than a small quantity of canned goods.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom rose from £404,718 in 1928 to £418,570 in 1929. The proportion of import trade with the United Kingdom was 28.50 per cent. in 1929 and the average for the last five years was 27.56 per cent.

The main import trade with Australia and New Zealand is in foodstuffs and coal, the balance being made up mostly of goods re-exported, and the imports from Canada are represented chiefly by canned fish, motor cars, tyres, and timber.

The imports from the United States of America consist mainly of lubricating, illuminating, and power oils, and items of general hardware, those from Japan being chiefly cheap cotton goods.

Exports.

The following Return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

		1925		*1926*		*1927*		*1928*		*1929*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... Tons	91,744	1,371,267	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215	120,683	1,827,095	72,275	881,263
Copra ...	... Tons	24,133	497,713	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416	27,947	567,254	33,226	563,978
Molasses ...	... Tons	8,283	8,283	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181	14,599	14,599	9,845	9,845
Bananas ...	Bunches	565,623	132,491	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819	521,003	147,781	384,858	107,280
Rubber ...	... lb.	145,213	16,116	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276	94,661	4,704	6,855	224
Gum ...	... cwt.	980	1,504	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707	865	1,212	2,533	3,548
Shell, turtle	... lb.	2,412	3,179	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382	1,965½	2,461	1,908½	2,774
Shell, trocas	... tons	567	35,054	378	30,540	269	16,355	232	13,693	192	11,476
Bêche de mer	... cwt.	671	3,105	886	3,909	1,412	6,496	601	3,361	1,049	6,044
Biscuits ...	... lb.	482,146	10,429	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334	438,211	11,306	373,793	9,507
Butter ...	... cwt.	213	1,881	525	3,616	484	3,615	303½	2,269	714	5,747
Cotton ...	... lb.	7,612	571	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593	75,366	5,339	49,115	3,348
Oil, coconut	... tons	132	5,026	91½	4,387	79	3,357	101½	4,421	96	4,038
Fruit, other fresh		—	6,041	—	6,579	—	5,536	—	1,256	—	2,644
Vegetables	... cwt.	4,845	3,171	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717	9,147	6,169	11,108	7,444
Pines, Canned	... lb.	—	—	—	—	145,824	1,801	245,799	4,249	128,210	2,276

As will be seen from the preceding table, the main exports of the Colony are sugar, copra, and bananas.

The production of copra is steadily increasing. The value of the copra exported during 1929 was £563,978, representing a tonnage of 33,226 tons, of which 7,688 tons were shipped to the United Kingdom, 11,136 tons to Continental ports and 14,402 tons to the United States of America.

Of the 72,275 tons of sugar exported in 1929, valued at £881,263, 4,783 tons were exported to New Zealand, 45,020 tons to Canada, 21,989 tons to United Kingdom, 432 tons to Australia, and 51 tons to other Pacific Islands.

The banana industry is the one most suited to the natives, and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present, but it is thought possible that, with improved methods of planting and packing, entry may again be made into the markets of the Commonwealth of Australia, from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for many years. The quantity shipped in 1929 was 384,858 bunches, valued at £107,280, representing a decrease of 136,145 bunches as compared with 1928.

Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber, cotton, butter and canned pines. These are comparatively new industries. A considerable falling off in rubber exports occurred in 1929, due to the low market value in the United Kingdom. Only 6,855 lb. were exported, whereas 94,661 lb. were exported in 1928. 6,295 lb. were shipped to United States of America and 560 lb. to Japan.

The whole of the cotton exported was shipped to the United Kingdom.

The quantity of butter exported in 1929 was 714 cwt. of a value of £5,747, the 1928 figure being exceeded by 411 cwt. 111 cwt. were shipped to the United Kingdom, 180 cwt. to Canada, 156 cwt. to New Zealand, 10 cwt. to Samoa, 63 cwt. to Tonga, and 194 cwt. to Hawaii.

The quantity of canned pines exported in 1929 was 128,210 lb., valued at £2,276. Of this quantity New Zealand took 118,954 lb., Canada 7,621 lb., other British possessions 1,497 lb., and foreign countries 138 lb. The quantity exported in 1928 was 245,799 lb. valued at £4,249. It is anticipated that the production in 1930 will far exceed that of previous years.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line call at Suva once every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney (Australia) and Vancouver (Canada) and vice versa. These steamers also call at Auckland (New Zealand) and Honolulu

(Hawaii). The Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Suva-Lautoka and Sydney once every three weeks, and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Auckland (New Zealand), Suva, Tonga, and Samoa once every four weeks. The Matson Navigation Company's steamers call at Suva once every three weeks on their voyages between San Francisco and Sydney and vice versa. Inter-island communication is provided by a steamer owned by Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the Government yacht *Pioneer*, several small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, and by a number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

There is now regular communication between the United Kingdom and Fiji direct, via Panama. Vessels trading to New Zealand make calls at Suva every two months, and the service is being increased in 1930 to calls every six weeks.

A mail subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port at Suva for six hours of daylight. A subsidy of £1,300 per annum is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, for a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports on Vanualevu. A subsidy of £7,500 per annum is paid to Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, for the inter-insular steamer provided by that Company, which calls regularly at Taveuni and at a number of outlying islands and copra-producing centres.

The principal route for English mails is via Vancouver by the Royal Mail Line, and via San Francisco by the Matson Navigation Company, the average time of transit being 28-30 days. In addition to the regular steamers, mails for New Zealand and Australia are despatched whenever opportunity offers, the time of transit to Sydney direct being 5 to 6 days and to Auckland 4 days.

The towns of Suva and Levuka situated 54 miles apart and on different islands are connected by a telephone line, 11½ miles of which is submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by a telephone line between Suva and Lautoka passing through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu, and Ba. The total length of the line is 125 miles. The section Nausori to Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, of New Zealand. Certain hours during each day are allotted for Government and public use. The Ba-Lautoka section which belongs to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, is also available for Government and public use during certain hours daily.

Government telephone systems are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, Savusavu, Taveuni, and Ra. There is also a Government telephone line between Suva and Navua. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, have private systems at and between Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, and also at Labasa on Vanualevu.

There are wireless stations at Suva, Labasa, Savu, and Taveuni for inter-insular communication. Suva Radio also communicates with Sydney, Western Pacific stations, and Honolulu.

The Imperial and International Communications, Limited, have an office in Suva, and direct cable communication is provided between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The road system of the Colony consists of 413 miles of motorable roads, of which 310 miles are surfaced and are motorable in all weathers, while the other 103 miles are only motorable in fine weather. In addition, there are 31 miles of unmotorable earth roads, and 1,627 miles of bridle tracks, giving a total mileage 2,071.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure. There is a Registrar, and a staff of assistants.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and Nisi Prius, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the powers and authorities of the Lord Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th

March, 1894, Rules providing for the Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court were also established.

In addition to the Local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit, and this provision applies to all Imperial laws extended to the Colony.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva in April, July, September, and December. The Court also goes on Circuit to Lautoka in February, June and October each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva the accused and witnesses from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit otherwise to order. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors and their clerks in actual practice, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen. In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice, by whom a copy of notes of the evidence taken at the trial is forwarded to the Governor with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases either issues a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to "The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875" forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by "The Civil Procedure Rules (1875)" or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890,
Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905,
Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions, and the Admiralty Rules already referred to.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908 and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

An Ordinance of 1883 provides that if the Chief Justice shall think that the nature or amount of civil business pending at Levuka (the ancient capital) is sufficient to warrant the holding of a sitting there, he may appoint a date for such sitting. Of recent years this power has not been utilized and the provision of the "Levuka District Registry" by which all preliminary matters up to the actual hearing can be dealt with, has been very seldom used, as litigants prefer to come to Suva.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in

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* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

† Rules, 1906.

Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided* in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The Native Regulation Board has recently revised these Regulations and a new edition was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for 2 months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

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* Ordinance 2 of 1903.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

On the criminal side of the Supreme Court there were, during the year 1929, 55 cases committed for trial involving some 43 accused. Amongst the cases heard were 4 for murder (involving in one instance 4 accused). Trials during the year held at the Central Criminal Court and Circuit Court resulted in 41 convictions and 18 acquittals. With regard to the balance, the Attorney-General entered a Nolle Prosequi in the case of 18 accused.

On the civil side, 77 actions were instituted in the Supreme Court during the year under review, as follows :—Summonses for debt, etc., 53; actions under mortgages, etc., 5; summonses for rent and rates, 2; actions for damages, 1; originating summonses, 10; adverse possession of land, 2; actions for specific performance, 1; miscellaneous, 3.

In the Appellate jurisdiction there were 7 criminal appeals, and 1 civil appeal, lodged.

In the Divorce Court, 10 petitions were filed, 7 being from Europeans and half-castes and the others from Indian petitioners. There was a slight decrease of petitions for divorce by natives under the provisions of the Divorce Regulation, 175 petitions coming before the Chief Justice for his decision. Seventy-four grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year, and in the Bankruptcy Court 4 petitions were presented, 2 being by Europeans, one by an Indian, and the other being the petition of a private company.

Police.

(*a*) *Strength*.—On 31st December, 1929, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was :—

Europeans :—	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, First Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, Second Grade	8
Natives :—	
N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	90
Indians :—	
N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	90
	234

The Force was four short of strength on that date.

The officers and men were distributed over 26 stations on 7 different islands.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*—The total cost of the Force for all services was £23,651 8s. 10d. The cost of the Police per man was £100 12s. 10d. and the cost per head of population was 2s. 7d.

(*c*) *Crime.*—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,815, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	145
Offences against property	397
Other offences	2,273

(*d*) Supervision is exercised over all persons entering or leaving the Colony.

(*e*) *Traffic.*—All traffic is controlled by the Constabulary, which carries out the registration of motor vehicles and the examination and licensing of drivers.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 1,310, being as follows :—

Motor cars for private use	515
Public motor passenger vehicles	355
Goods lorries	268
Motor cycles	172

271 persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

(*f*) *Training.*—The fact that it has not been possible to provide funds to establish a Reserve renders the proper training of recruits a matter of difficulty.

(*g*) *Health.*—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony, very few men reporting sick.

(*h*) *Barracks.*—Except at Suva, the accommodation is adequate. It is hoped that the contemplated extension and reconstruction of the headquarters buildings and offices will be undertaken in 1930. These new buildings, when completed, will be of great benefit to the members of the Force and to the public who have business to transact with the Police.

(*i*) The work of the Force is hampered by the lack of communications between the various stations, and between these and headquarters. Especially is this so in the case of inter-island communication, and it is a cause for satisfaction that the general well-being of the population and the consequent rareness of serious crime render these difficulties of less importance than they would otherwise be.

Prisons.

The prisons of the Colony are under the charge of a Superintendent.

The main penitentiary, at Suva, is an up-to-date establishment conducted on modern prison lines. Industries have been established whereby prisoners are taught useful trades such as tinsmithing, blacksmithing, matmaking, tailoring, and carpentering. There is also a bakery which supplies bread to the various Government institutions in and around Suva. There are nineteen Provincial or District Gaols, where short-sentence prisoners are confined, these being employed principally in maintaining the Government Stations.

The number of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony during the last five years was as follows :—

	Male.	*Female.*
1925	1,130	9
1926	997	30
1927	1,081	17
1928	1,209	15
1929	1,360	18
Average over period	1,155.4	17.8

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total sum expended by the Public Works Department for 1929 amounted to £223,126 12s. 1d., of which £86,307 2s. 11d. was expended under Loan Works Account. This marks another record in the operations of the Public Works Department, corresponding figures for the last five years being as follows :—

	£
1925	128,387
1926	149,889
1927	191,325
1928	205,234
1929	223,126

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works, with headquarters at Suva. For general executive purposes the Colony is divided into three districts, with headquarters in Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is nominally under the charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva district is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, machine shops, repair shops, and boatyard. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, etc., operates from Walu Bay. Further equipment was purchased and installed during the year, notably a complete tin-smithing and sheet metal working plant in the machine shop, and band saw, chain morticing machine and planing machine in the boat yard. There is a slipway which is able to accommodate the inter-insular contract steamer of nearly 1,000 tons; a second slipway for small craft was completed towards the end of the year.

The number of workmen employed by the Department in the Suva District is about 1,000, and the value of the work carried out in 1929 was approximately £102,000.

The hostel attached to the Girls' Grammar School, Suva, was completed at a cost of £13,500, and the building was opened in March.

The Secretary of State during the year approved of the construction of the bridge across the Rewa river, and the services of a bridge engineer were obtained from Messrs. Dorman Long and Company, the contractors for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The necessary surveys were made and plans prepared, but as the design submitted, for a steel structure, was not entirely suited to local conditions, an alternative design for a concrete bridge is in course of preparation.

Approval was given during the year for the erection in Suva of seven bungalows for Civil Servants, and sites for these dwellings were chosen on the Domain Circular Road. Work was started in October, and two bungalows were ready for occupation by the end of the year. This work is being expedited in every possible way so that the shortage of Government quarters which has existed for so long may be in part removed.

Roads and bridges in all parts of the Colony continued to receive the special attention of the Department, the total expenditure under this heading being £90,925, of which £36,259 was on Loan account. The streets and roads within the Municipal areas of Suva and Levuka are maintained and improved by the respective Councils. The roads in the immediate vicinity of Suva, outside the Municipality, are under the direct supervision of the District Engineer, while the remainder of the Colony is divided for purposes of road administration into sixteen road board areas, which, as a rule, coincide with the Magisterial Districts.

The construction of the road between the Government headquarters in the Rewa district and the Tailevu Dairy Scheme, which was started in September, 1928, was continued during the year, and by the 31st December all the earth work, with the exception of the approaches to three of the bridges, was finished, and it is anticipated that the road will be opened to traffic about the middle of 1930. This road, in addition to providing ready means of access to the Dairy Scheme, forms an important link in the projected main coastal road round the island of Viti Levu.

Motor traffic is increasing throughout the Colony, and the policy of gradually improving earth roads with metal or gravel surfaces is producing good results. Thirteen additional lorries were provided for the use of country road boards.

Although only about 15 miles of new roads were made during 1929, there has been a steady improvement throughout the group in the provision of better road surfaces for motor transport. Valuable work is done by the country Road Boards, and the appointment of an Inspecting Roads Engineer will ensure closer co-operation between them and the central administration.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The total estimated population at the end of December, 1929, was 180,005, including Fijians 91,711, Indians 73,121, and Europeans 4,726.

The general death rate was 17.60 per mille, or 1 per mille less than the previous year. The Fijian death rate at 24.66 was rather less than in 1928, and the Indian death rate, at only 9.06, was over 1 per mille less than in 1928.

The general birth rate was 32.79 per mille, slightly less than the previous year.

The one outstanding event of the year, from the public health point of view, was the widespread epidemic of bacillary dysentery, of the Shiga variety. Starting in February in the lower Rewa District it rapidly spread to all surrounding districts, including Suva and its environs, and generally followed the lines of communication to other parts of the Colony. Infection was conveyed, in the main, by contacts and carriers. It is many years since an epidemic of such unusual virulence has occurred here, all races being affected. It is possible that a different strain of the disease, to which there was no relative immunity present, was introduced into the Colony early in the year. The epidemic subsided in the cooler months, but there was a recrudescence in November and December. The mortality was considerable, especially in very young children, who seemed particularly prone to the disease.

The hurricane and floods of December resulted, as they always do, in a great plague of flies, which helped no doubt materially in the spread of the dysentery. Rotting vegetation, and soil pollution resulting from the filling up and overflowing of latrines and the cutting off of the main water supply to the towns on the left bank of the Rewa river, all played their part.

The vaccination campaign was brought to a close, and Fiji may now be considered a well vaccinated country.

There were twenty-one European Medical Officers on the staff, including the Chief Medical Officer, and there was one Indian Medical Officer stationed at Nadi. One additional European Sanitary Inspector was appointed for the north part of Viti Levu.

The Infant Welfare Campaign amongst Fijian children was continued, and there are now three whole-time trained nurses employed; a lady doctor is also a part-time worker.

During the year the campaign against yaws and ringworm, which is partly financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, was continued.

The care of public health in the country districts is in the hands of fourteen District Medical Officers, forty-three Native Medical Practitioners, a European Sanitary Inspector, a European Ankylostomiasis Officer, and five Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

In Suva there is a whole-time Medical Officer of Health, three European Sanitary Inspectors, and one Fijian Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Besides the thirteen Provincial Hospitals there are General Hospitals at Levuka, Lautoka, Nadi, and Ra, an Indian Women's Hospital at Ba conducted by the Methodist Mission and subsidized by the Government, and also subsidized European Cottage Hospitals at Ba, Savusavu, and Taveuni.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva has 113 beds. There is a European Nursing Staff of 5 trained Nurses and 12 Probationers, and there are 24 Native Nursing Pupils. There are two full-time Resident Medical Officers. Attached to the hospital is a Central Medical School for Natives. The school, which is an expansion of the former Native Medical School, was completed and opened in 1928. Funds were provided by the Government of Fiji, and by the other Administrations in the Western Pacific which had agreed to send students to the school. The Rockefeller Foundation has contributed £8,000 towards the construction and maintenance of the school. At the end of 1922, 19 Fijian and 4 Indian pupils from Fiji, 5 Samoans, 4 Gilbert Islanders, 4 Tongans, 1 Cook Islander, 1 student for the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and 2 Fijians for the New Hebrides were in residence. A Medical Officer is whole-time tutor to the school, and there are six other lecturers and demonstrators.

Lepers of all races in Fiji are compulsorily segregated on the Island of Makogai, and lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands are also received there.

The staff includes a Resident Medical Superintendent, and 12 European and 8 Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters. There were 442 patients in the Asylum at the end of the year, of whom 7 were from New Zealand, 10 from Samoa, 11 from Tonga, and 54 from the Cook Islands.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all interested practically in education: Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian organizations.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an Industrial School at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time, also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematize the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education and by School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

As a result of a resolution of the Great Council of Chiefs held in 1917, six provincial boarding schools for Fijians were established during the years 1920-1925, at which selected Fijian village pupils are enabled to receive a primary education under the guidance of European headmasters.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed to investigate the educational facilities provided in the Colony and to make recommendations for their improvement.

A new Education Ordinance was passed in 1929 making provision for a complete registration and grading of all schools and teachers, together with wider provisions for the control of schools; and all regulations and courses of instruction were re-cast, as were also the examination courses prescribed for non-European teachers. The regrading of all schools under the new Ordinance is now in progress. A Government Teachers' Training School was established for Fijian and Indian students, and financial provision was made for the establishment of an advanced class for Indian boys equivalent to that for Fijians already existing at Nasinu. The total amount of grants-in-aid for assisted schools has been very substantially increased, enabling the Board of Education to make grants to a larger number of schools, and to increase the rate of the grants; that to the Methodist Mission Training School being increased fourfold.

An Inspector of Indian Schools, and a temporary Inspector whose work will be more in relation to Fijian Schools, have been appointed. The question of levying an Education Rate is under consideration.

The Education Department is taking an active interest in the Boy Scout movement, which now numbers over 1,000 members.

The educational facilities provided for European pupils are as follows:—

Under a scheme of co-operation existing between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji, the Colony is enabled to obtain trained teachers for the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools which exist in Suva, and for the Public School, Levuka. The syllabus of instruction is designed to meet the requirements of examinations up to the standard of the New Zealand University Matriculation examination. The three schools have well-equipped hostels. The boarding fees for the Suva schools are £50 per annum, and the tuition fees for non-ratepayers are £2 2s. 0d. per annum for primary pupils and £7 10s. 0d. per annum for secondary pupils.

In addition, the Roman Catholic Orders of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny and of the Marist Brothers provide a sound education to a secondary standard.

Small schools with certificated European mistresses have been established at five country centres of European population in which children are given a primary education. Young children, whose parents live in isolated places, may be enrolled in the correspondence classes conducted by the Education Department.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Many of the villages possess a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may proceed to one of ten assisted primary schools, or to one of the six Government provincial boarding schools. In all Government schools manual occupations form part of the curriculum, and the pupils grow all native foodstuffs required for their maintenance. From the provincial schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government scholarships enabling them to continue their studies in New Zealand.

As regards Indian education, there are two Government Indian Schools as well as other schools established by the Missions and private enterprise which are aided by Government grants. There were at the end of 1929 39 assisted schools to which Indians are admitted and some 40 private schools for Indians.

Under the provisions of the Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance, 1918, 646 schools and 1,422 teachers were registered up to 31st December, 1929.

The majority of these schools are native village schools in which instruction is given in the vernacular, in reading and in writing. There are now altogether 129 Government and assisted schools, nine are for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent, 78 for Fijians, 41 for Indians, one for Chinese and one for Melanesians, while the Government Teachers' Training School has both Indian and Fijian students. They are attended by 7,183 pupils, of whom 723 are Europeans, or of European descent, 3,879 are Fijians and others, and 2,581 Indians. The staffs consist of 75 European, 105 Fijian, and 61 Indian teachers.

The annual expenditure on education, which amounted to about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, increased to £30,039 in 1925,

£31,584 in 1926, £34,027 in 1927, £36,089 in 1928 and £40,610 in 1929.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered : Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate) : New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations : New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations : London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations : Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per centum of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1929 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freeholds	1,590	531,656	—	—	531,656	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	365	20,718	90	6,727	27,445	—
Leases of Native Land	6,533	364,217	709	9,716	373,933	—
		Total...	...	...	933,034	4,523,620

Five hundred and ninety applications for leases of native lands aggregating 19,641 acres were received during the year. Of these, 282 applications for 4,117 acres were approved and 214 applications for 13,248 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 86 per cent. of the total. One hundred and fifty-seven applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 5,529 acres. Of these, sixty-six applications for 3,466 acres were approved and seventy-three for 1,678 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

Survey.

The survey staff of the Lands Department consists of five officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1929 the field staff were employed almost wholly on investigations and miscellaneous surveys, including surveys of native leases, and comparatively little main traverse work was possible. Five surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native and Crown lands.

Three hundred and forty-two plans of surveys by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

A travelling Inspector of Leases was appointed on the 1st July, 1929, with headquarters in Suva.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and three native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands; and to the 31st December, 1929, £15,485 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission, in 1929, completed investigations in the Province of Cakaudrove, and also operated in the Provinces of Kadavu and Tailevu (North). The survey staff attached to the Commission comprises ten surveyors and five supernumerary officers.

Survey operations were carried out in the Provinces of Colo East, Naitasiri, Rewa, Macuata, and Bua.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of a land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is, in fact, a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependents from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes: agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers, the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4s. a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small, but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended. They are mostly employed as carpenters, boatbuilders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boat-builders vary from 7s. to 12s. a day, according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependents. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

The majority of Indians who signed on for contract labour under the Masters and Servants Ordinance during the year 1928 were employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company during the cane-crushing season. The total number of Indian labourers employed by the Company remained about the same as in the previous year.

Approximately 3,000 are employed during the planting season, the number rising to over 4,000 during the harvesting and crushing season, inclusive of those working under written agreements.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Indian labourers dependent mainly on wages. In 1921 this was put at 5,000. The number so dependent is now considerably less, and only a small minority of Indian labourers are entirely dependent on their cash earnings. The great majority live on plots or small allotments on the outskirts of settlements, and family earnings are supplemented by the produce of these and of the poultry and cows which are kept almost universally.

There has been practically no change in the general level of cash wages. In Suva the ordinary rate is 3s. per day (normally eight hours). The standard in country districts is 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. Wages for semi-skilled labour run up to 4s. and 5s. per day.

The information as to wages paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company may be summarized as follows :—

For regular employees of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company cash wages are supplemented by the provision of free accommodation and free medical attendance, a privilege extended to the families of labourers, who also are granted facilities for keeping cows. In addition to this employees of the Company are entitled to concession rates for their food supplies at the Company's stores. At current prices the concession is worth about 1s. 4d. a week to a single man and correspondingly more to men with families.

For field work the ordinary wage is 1s. 8d. per day for a six hours' task, with opportunities for working extra time. A bonus of 6d. per week is given for a full week's work. Harvest wages are by piece work at a standard rate per ton, and cane cutters earn up to 22s. 6d. per week or more. Skilled agricultural labourers, ploughmen, tractor drivers and the like are paid at special rates ranging from 9s. 9d. to 17s. per week, with a bonus for a full week's work. A full week's work is normally 5½ days.

In the mills during the slack season wages range from 10s. to 21s. a week, with an additional bonus. Special workmen are paid up to 30s. a week. During the crushing season the basic wage is 11s. 6d. a week with higher wages for a large proportion for special work and extra wages for overtime. Bonuses for a full week's work range from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. Men engaged for the season (about six months) are also entitled to an extra bonus of £4 to £4 10s. 0d. for a full season's work.

The general range of wages for domestic servants in the Colony is from £3 a month for garden hands (5½ days) to £5 or £6 for cooks and table servants (generally 6½ days), with food supplied during the day. The great majority of domestic servants live in their own homes. Car drivers are paid £8 per month and upwards.

Indian wages in outlying plantations are higher than those quoted above and are generally supplemented by free quarters and food supplies at concession rates.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, at present employed under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, is about 1,400; of these 1,000 are employed in the Suva

District and 400 in the various country districts. The nationalities of the labour employed are as follows :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Indians.*	*Fijians.*	*Others.*
75	110	700	490	25

Of the total of 1,400 more than half are road labourers. Of these 592 are Indians and 254 Fijians. The Fijian does not, as a rule, care for the heavy routine work of repairing roads, and it is only in the country districts where Indian labour is scarce that they are employed on the roads. On the other hand, the majority of carpenters, boat-builders, and water transport workers are Fijians. The majority of unskilled labour on road and quarry works, and of builders' and dockyard labourers are Indians.

Indian labour is scarce throughout the Colony, and it is the usual custom for the labouring class of Indian to cultivate small areas of paddy or maize in addition to performing daily work. During the planting and harvesting seasons considerable numbers of labourers spend the whole of their time on their small holdings, and labour gangs are consequently depleted.

The general rate of wages for unskilled labour in the Suva district is 3s. per day of eight hours, and 2s. 6d. in the country. Where Indian labour is scarce in country districts Fijians command a somewhat higher rate. Levuka, for instance, has to pay 4s. for Fijians, and Taveuni and Colo East 3s. In other cases the rates are the same for Indians and Fijians, at 2s. 6d. There are about 850 unskilled labourers employed by the Department. In addition there is a body of about 200 which can only be classed as semi-skilled men, earning from 3s. 6d. up to 6s. per day as members of launch crews, slipway hands, helpers to various trades, time-keepers, painters, and so on. Among the skilled trades it is sometimes difficult to obtain trained men, and comparatively high wages are commanded by good tradesmen. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane, and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, and blacksmiths.

The half-castes usually find employment in the building trades as carpenters, joiners, and boat-builders.

The wages of skilled workmen vary considerably with the individual standard of skill. There are no fixed rates, and no trade unions.

The following figures will give some idea of the current rates :—

Carpenters and Joiners.—From 3s. 6d. up to £1 per day, depending on the degree of skill. Half-caste carpenters from 7s. 6d. to 16s. per day. Fijians can earn up to 12s. per day.

Boat-builders.—(Chiefly half-castes), from 8s. up to £1 per day. Semi-skilled Fijians employed in the boat-sheds from 3s. 9d. up to 8s.

Painters.—(Usually Indians), 3s. 6d. per day. Leaders up to 9s. per day.

Mechanics.—(Including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilersmiths, etc.), up to £1 per day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 5s. 0d. per week.

Lorry and steam-roller drivers.—(Chiefly Europeans), 15s. to 18. per day. The average wages are about £4 15s. per week.

Road Overseers.—(Chiefly Europeans), £18 to £25 per month. Road Gang Sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. 0d. up to £10 8s. 0d. per month. Average wages £7 per month.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The administration of native affairs is conducted under the provisions of the Native Regulations, and through a system of Native Councils which gives to the Fijian a large share of self-government on lines which harmonize with tradition and custom. The District Councils, which are purely native Councils under the direction of the Chief of the District, have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the health, good government, and prosperity of their respective districts, and of electing representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils, which are under the direction of the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor, have similar powers with regard to their respective Provinces and have also the power of electing representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. The Great Council of Chiefs, which meets every two years, advises the Governor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijians and also nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives to the Legislative Council. The selected and nominated members of the Legislative Council hold office for three years. These Councils provide the necessary links between the natives and the Government to ensure an adequate representation of the wishes and opinions of the natives throughout the Colony.

All offences against the provisions of the Native Regulations are tried by specially constituted Courts. Minor infringements are dealt with by Native Stipendiary Magistrates in District Courts, from which appeal lies to the European Magistrate of the District. All graver offences are dealt with in the Provincial Courts in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. Appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In addition to broadening the basis of representation of native opinion, the Native Regulations make provision for the better care of women and children and of sick persons; for the better control of unmarried girls and of women living in industrial centres; for the prohibition of irregular unions; for the more effective registration of births and deaths; and for the determination of the legitimacy of children born in wedlock. Provision is also made to ensure the safeguarding of funds collected for purposes of common benefit or private enterprise, to prohibit the unauthorized collection of money by promises of future gain, to secure a money payment in lieu of communal services from men absent from their villages for more than a year, to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling, and to ensure the maintenance of the wives and families of men absent from their villages. The Regulations are based upon native custom and are in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community.

The general health of the natives is under the care of the Medical Service. Four general hospitals and fifteen provincial hospitals are in operation. The Government Medical staff includes 19 European Medical Officers and 51 Native Medical Practitioners. In addition there is a large staff of trained nurses in the general hospitals and 36 Native Obstetric Nurses distributed throughout the country districts. Native Medical Practitioners are trained in the Central Medical School attached to the War Memorial Hospital, Suva. This school accommodates 40 students of whom 20 are Fijians. A school is also maintained in conjunction with the hospital for the training of 24 Native Obstetric Nurses each year. The total sum expended on medical services last year was £80,935, or 12.4 per cent. of the total expenditure of the Colony. To this sum the natives, through their Provincial Funds, contributed £4,700. In return for their contribution the natives receive free medical and surgical treatment at all hospitals and at the hands of all European Medical Officers, Native Medical Practitioners, and Native Obstetric Nurses. The majority of the Native Medical Practitioners are stationed in the country districts and are not attached to hospitals. These men travel throughout the districts, attending to the sick in their own homes and giving advice and direction in sanitary matters in general. The Native Obstetric Nurses attend confinements either at the provincial hospitals or in the native villages and give practical instruction to the mothers in the care of infants. Apart from general medical treatment a great amount of work has been done in reducing the incidence of particular diseases and in providing protection against infection. In 1928 a campaign was started with the object of vaccinating the whole population against smallpox. At the end of last year 86 per cent. of the native population had either been vaccinated or had proved sufficient vaccination within the last seven years. Widespread inoculation against typhoid fever has also been carried out and this disease is not now regarded as a serious menace to the natives. A campaign for the treatment of ankylostomiasis has been conducted under the direction of Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation and considerably over 20,000 cases treated. This disease is no longer a serious cause of ill-health in any district in the Colony. Special attention has been paid to the treatment of yaws and ringworm and the incidence of these diseases has been considerably reduced throughout the Colony. During the month of February an epidemic of dysentery of a severe type commenced in the district of Bureta. The epidemic continued more or less throughout the year and extended to almost every district in the Colony. In spite of this the death-rate, 24.66, was 0.29 per mille better than during the previous year. The birth-rate was 31.91 and the total increase 683, against 765 in 1928. There were 973 marriages amongst natives during the year. The total native population at the end of 1929 was estimated at 91,711.

Child Welfare Work amongst the natives which was begun in 1927 is now in operation, under the personal direction of fully qualified European Nurses, assisted by Native Obstetric Nurses in eight provinces of the Colony and, in the native towns around Suva and Nausori, under the voluntary supervision of Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Consul. This work is organized on the most practical lines designed to reach the maximum number of women and to teach them methods of mothercraft which they are capable of adopting and carrying out successfully. The general method of procedure is for the European Nurse to make regular visits to each town in her Province, to inspect the women and children and the homes in which they live, to treat minor ailments, skin diseases, etc., and to give instruction to the women on all matters relating to child-birth and the care of children and the home. Special attention is paid to pregnant women who receive advice during their pregnancy and the services of Obstetric Nurses during their confinement. Infants are weighed and a record of their weights kept so that necessary treatment can be given in all cases where progress is unsatisfactory. In each village a committee of women is appointed and provided with a supply of medicines for treating simple ailments. The members of the Committee hold regular inspections of the children and see that they are properly cared for and receive medical attention when necessary. They also report to the European Nurse or nearest Medical Officer any cases of serious illness.

The immediate effect of this work is an undoubted improvement in the general health of the women and children and in the cleanliness of their homes and a freedom from minor ills which they have not previously enjoyed. The less obvious but equally important effects are the creation in the women of a desire to improve, of their volition, the conditions under which they live and bring up their children and the raising of the physical standard of the race by providing the rising generation with comparative freedom from disease during the critical period of childhood. The full effects of this work will not be felt for many years to come but the keen interest displayed by the women and their efforts to profit by the assistance and instruction given to them indicates that it will be of immense benefit to the race. The success which has so far attended this work is due in a very large measure to the devoted work of the European nurses engaged therein. In many districts this work necessitates almost constant travelling by the nurses either on horseback or on foot through difficult country, and under most trying conditions. The Colony is singularly fortunate in securing the services of nurses who, embued with a spirit of self sacrifice, are willing to undertake this arduous work for the benefit of the natives.

Allied to Child Welfare Work proper, is the work of the Travelling Medical Officer. The duties of this officer are to supervise the work of the Native Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses to endeavour to bring about improvement in the sanitary conditions of native villages.

Under the Native Regulations, Fijian children are required to attend school up to the age of fourteen years. No restrictions are placed upon the parents' choice of a school, which is only limited by geographical conditions and the capacity of the schools available. As the elementary education of the natives remains largely in the hands of the several religious bodies established in the Colony, the parents' choice generally falls upon a school conducted by the denomination to which they belong. In most native villages the boys and girls are taught the rudiments of education by native teachers most of whom have received some training at the central Mission schools. Where conditions permit several villages join together in the establishment of a joint school, in some of which certificated teachers are employed. At many of the Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by a European missionary or priest assisted by Mission sisters and native teachers. From these schools many of the pupils continue their education at the central schools and training colleges operated by the Missions whose curricula include branches of technical education. A limited number of Fijian youths are trained in modern methods of agriculture at the Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso. A number of the older native girls receive education and training in domestic science at the Methodist Mission Girls' School at Matavelo.

In addition to the Mission schools there are in some Provinces boarding schools controlled by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko and supported by native funds. There are also six Joint Provincial schools under direct Government control in which selected pupils from all the Provinces receive a good primary education. These schools are under the direct control of fully qualified European headmasters who are assisted by a staff of trained native teachers and manual instructors. An annual contribution is made from native funds towards the maintenance of these schools. Higher education is provided for selected pupils from the Provincial and Mission schools at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, Nasinu. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising youths outside the Colony, and four Fijians attended Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year. A native scholarship fund has been established. Assistance is given by the Government to a number of primary and vernacular schools by a system of money grants which vary in amount according to the standard of education provided in the schools to which the grants are made.

The whole system of native education, including the extent to which additional revenue should be raised for the extension of educational facilities, is receiving the Government's attention. In all matters relating to the education of the natives the Missions have always played an important part and it is felt that progress can most effectively be made by assisting the Missions to improve their present organizations. For this purpose substantial annual grants are made in aid of Davuilevu School, which is used as a training school for native teachers, and of Navuso Agricultural School. A sum of about £8,000 has also been made available for grants in aid of the maintenance of native schools. A building grant of £3,000 has been made to the Methodist Mission school to be built at Nasese for the education and training of Fijian girls. A teachers' training school was established at Lautoka early in the year and there are now 17 Fijian boys in training there. This provides the most essential step towards the placing of native education upon a sound basis. The extension at the same time of technical and agricultural instruction will provide the natives with an education which will be of practical value to them in their endeavours to develop the natural resources of their lands and to raise their standard of living.

The Fijians remain essentially an agricultural people dependent for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their tribal lands. Although a considerable number of the younger men go to work on sugar or coconut estates they almost invariably return to the cultivation of their lands when the object for which they worked has been attained. Their agricultural activities are directed primarily to the planting of crops for their own food supplies. These crops consist chiefly of yams, dalo, tapioca, sweet potatoes, plantains, and bread-fruit. They are skilled agriculturists and although they generally use but the simplest instruments their planting operations are very successful.

Large areas of coconut groves are owned by the natives throughout the Colony. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra. A considerable proportion of the copra exported from the Colony is made by the natives. The improvement in the care of established coconut plantations and in the planting of new areas has been maintained. In Viti Levu alone over 4,000 acres have been planted in coconuts by the natives.

In the chief productive areas European Coconut Inspectors appointed by the Government have carried out a thorough and systematic campaign for the clearing up and thinning out of old coconut groves and have personally supervised the selection and planting of new areas and the manufacture of copra. The effects of this work are to reduce the incidence of disease affecting the coconut palms, to increase the yield of coconuts, and to improve the quality of copra. These results besides being of direct permanent benefit to the native owners serve as a practical demonstration of the utility of adopting better methods of cultivation. The improvement in the health of the coconuts in Viti Levu and adjacent islands consequent upon the effective control of the Levuana moth has been maintained and large areas of coconuts which were formerly non-productive are now bearing well.

The restored confidence in the value of coconut palms has led to the planting of new areas by the natives. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease aided by the work of the Coconut Inspectors will result in material increase in the prosperity of a very large section of the Fijians.

The major portion of the bananas exported from the Colony is grown by Fijians. Only fruit of first class quality is exported, and in the maintenance of this quality the natives are assisted by European Inspectors appointed by the Government. These Inspectors supervise the weeding out and destruction of diseased plants and the planting of new areas with healthy plants. They advise the natives in the selection of suitable soils, proper methods of drainage and cultivation, and in the handling of fruit. The fruit is sold by the natives to the exporters either at their plantations or at Government packing stations.

The system of granting licences to banana buyers instituted last year has worked well. This system provides minimum prices for the purchase of bananas, the prices varying according to the time of the year. It also ensures a steady market throughout the year for all good quality fruit grown by the natives in the areas over which licences are granted. The provision of known minimum prices and of an assured market should effect an increase in the large income annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

The cultivation of sugar cane, which is mainly in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of Indian planters, is gradually being adopted by Fijians. The quantity of sugar cane grown by the natives is not great, but it is steadily increasing. As the cultivation of sugar cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely untried by the natives, the successful adoption of their use augurs well for the development of more scientific methods of agriculture amongst the Fijians.

As the result of experiments conducted at the Government cotton farm at Sigatoka a variety of cotton has been produced which appears to be admirably suited to local conditions. This variety is more hardy and has a much heavier yield than the Sea Island cotton which has been grown during the past few years. As it can be used more extensively than the Sea Island variety there is likely to be a steadier sale for it in the world's markets. It is as yet too early to gauge the extent to which this cotton can profitably be grown but it is hoped that it will in the near future provide the Fijians, more especially in the inland districts where difficulties of transport preclude the cultivation of heavier crops, with a profitable industry admirably suited to their social system. Towards the end of the year provision was made for the appointment of an agricultural instructor to be under the control of the Secretary for Native Affairs. This Instructor deals direct with the adult Fijians in their villages and by practical demonstration and instruction teaches them to adopt more advanced methods of agriculture. He also assists them in the selection of crops to be grown, and in the cultivation, harvesting, and marketing of these crops. By utilizing the inherited aptitude of the Fijians for communal work he endeavours to teach them co-operative methods of production and marketing, thus eliminating much of the wastage which now attends the haphazard individual efforts to grow crops for profit. The principles on which the Instructor works aim at the establishment of individual planting hand in hand with co-operative measures for the reduction of cost of production, and the agricultural education of the adult Fijians in order that they may pass on the knowledge they acquire to the younger generation and thus secure the most rapid and widespread adoption of improved methods of agriculture. The system of adult education carried out by the Instructor ensures that the individual planter reaps the reward for his labours and, in addition to increasing his material prosperity, gains an added interest in life.

Apart from their agricultural pursuits many of the better educated Fijians occupy administrative and clerical positions in the Government Service. Some have qualified as Native Medical Practitioners and others as Native Stipendiary Magistrates. Others are employed as clerks and shop assistants in several of the larger business houses. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as masters, engineers, or seamen on inter-insular vessels or as carpenters and artisans. There is abundant evidence of an increasing desire among the younger Fijians to acquire education and training in order to fit themselves to take an active part in all branches of industry in the

Colony. The success which has so far attended their efforts holds out encouraging hopes for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The vital statistics given elsewhere show a further increase of 1,886 in the Indian population. The birth-rate rose from 34.0 to 34.86, and the death-rate fell from 10.80 to 9.06. These figures are based upon the estimate of the total population, which will be revised and corrected in the Census of 1931. In addition to this natural increase in the population there is likely to be a steady stream of immigration from India, which exceeds emigration by some hundreds every year.

The great bulk of the Indian population is formed of the 60,537 immigrants introduced into the Colony under the indenture system between the years 1879 and 1916, and the descendants of these immigrants. Up to the end of 1929, 30,806 of those possessing repatriation rights had been returned to India and the estimated total of Indian births and deaths in the Colony during the period were 52,254 and 22,410 respectively.

The natural annual increase in population is remarkably high, in spite of the disproportion of the sexes, which, although gradually adjusting itself, still exists, and is a somewhat serious feature in its bearing on the social life of the Indian community. As immigration at present consists principally of the introduction of some hundreds of males every year, it may become necessary to adopt safeguards, in the shape of restricting to family immigration, to prevent the perpetuation of the disproportion in numbers of the sexes.

The Indian population is mainly centred in the sugar-producing tracts, and in Suva and its suburbs. Allowing for increase and movement since the Census of 1921, approximate numbers by districts are: Macuata, 10,000; Ba, 13,000; Nadi and Rewa, 10,000 each; Lautoka, 7,000; Nadroga and Ra, 3,000 each; Suva, 7,000; other places, 7,000.

The great bulk of the population has developed from a condition of agricultural labourers into a body of small farmers, who are now the chief producers of the agricultural products of the Colony. To the Colonial Sugar Refining Company is due most of the credit for educating and training these people to become productive citizens, and for devising a successful scheme for settling them on the land as independent tenant farmers. It is impossible to exaggerate the value to the Indian, and to the Colony, of this simple and well conceived scheme under which the Company is able to guide and assist their tenants to make the most successful use of their holdings, which approximate 8 to 10 acres in area, according to the productive capacity of the land. The tenant's independence is secured, together with a certain income that is more than sufficient for his requirements. Implements and machinery are supplied at low rates on a hiring system, and the tenant is given the advantage of service of his stock by the Company's thoroughbred bulls. The building of comfortable houses is encouraged by providing materials at low cost, and in every way the Company have succeeded in producing in this class of Indian a condition of contented prosperity. Much of the credit for the success of what was until recently an experiment is due to those specially selected officers whom the Company have appointed to supervise their tenant farmers in the different areas.

More than two-thirds of the Indians in the Colony obtain their livelihood directly or indirectly from the sugar industry, and a like proportion of the sugar grown in the Colony is cultivated by Indians, either as tenant farmers of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, or as lessees of their holdings directly from the native owners. The latter are afforded the same facilities as the Company's tenants, and they have, therefore, an equal opportunity to develop their holdings to the best advantage.

Cotton and rice are extensively grown by Indians, and other crops grown, principally for the local market, are:—maize, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, dahl, and yaqona.

It is interesting to note that 60,016 acres of native lands are now leased to Indians, in addition to the Government Indian Settlements, and to approximately 25,000 acres held from the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

A number of Indians, sufficient for the present requirements of the Colony, are employed as clerks in the Government service and in commercial firms, and as store assistants. The trading licence returns do not distinguish between fresh licences and renewals, but the figures show a rise from 1,554 in 1928 to 1,900 in 1929. Seven hundred and ninety-nine taxi licences were issued to Indians in 1929, and practically all of the lorry, tractor, and taxi drivers in the Colony, as well as the locomotive drivers employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, are Indians.

The physical evolution of the Indian in Fiji, owing to the influences of an extremely favourable environment, has resulted in the production of a type in the second and third generations that is physically and mentally much superior to the ancestral.

There was a remarkable increase in the number of marriages to the total of 879, which includes 184 old customary marriages registered under the new Ordinance. This is largely due to the provision which gives extended powers to Indian priests to perform marriages, and makes the legal formalities as simple as possible. It brings, under penalty for default, all customary marriages into the category of legal marriages, and it raises the contract to that position of importance which is essential to the social well-being of the Indian community.

Further evidence of the upward trend in their social development is to be found in the manner in which they are conforming to the ways of the country of their adoption, their improved conditions of living and of home life, and a marked diminution of serious crime.

The steamship *Sutlej*, chartered to carry 850 statute adults, sailed for Calcutta on the 9th January with the equivalent of only 576½ adult passengers, repatriated at Government's expense. This is the smallest number of repatriates that has yet been returned to India in a vessel specially chartered for the purpose, and a decrease of 378 on the number returned in the previous vessel. The number included 8 lepers, 30 invalids, and 48 persons classified as paupers.

The records of the past three years show that 2,544 Indians have come to the Colony since 1927. Immigration commenced on a large scale by the repatriation steamer on the earlier voyage to Fiji in 1928, and the figures of immigration for the years 1928 and 1929 exceeded those of emigration by 243.

The experiment of introducing a number of selected repatriated families from India, which was tried in 1928, has proved successful, and the great majority of these people have been absorbed into the population. The experiment has not been repeated, but preparations have been made between the Governments of India and Fiji in readiness to repeat it whenever the conditions are suitable. Emigration to Fiji has received a fresh impetus in India during the last three years. In the second steamer of 1928 there arrived 783 immigrants, of whom 462 were Punjabis; and the steamer due to arrive early in 1930 is conveying another batch of 828 immigrants.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year, taken at 20.30 and 03.30 Greenwich Mean Time, and reduced to 32° Fahrenheit and Mean Sea-Level, was 29.846″; the highest recorded being 30.134″ on August 16th, and the lowest 28.917″ on January 22nd.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest readings and the dates of their occurrences :—

Months.	*Monthly Means.*	*Highest recorded.*	*Date.*	*Lowest recorded.*	*Date.*
January ...	29·694	29·865	11th	28·917	22nd
February ...	29·771	29·880	31st	29·490	19th
March... ...	29·801	29·973	18th, 19th	29·527	4th
April	29·845	29·974	23rd.	29·722	17th
May	29·874	30·062	31st	29·692	14th
June	29·935	30·060	1st	29·749	30th
July	29·919	30·028	12th, 13th, 28th.	29·745	2nd
August ...	29·961	30·134	16th	29·787	21st
September ...	29·941	30·052	10th	29·818	1st
October ...	29·917	30·069	3rd	29·738	22nd
November ...	29·789	29·928	1st	29·556	28th
December ...	29·700	29·885	23rd	28·940	11th

The absolute lowest readings outside of observation hours during the hurricanes of January and December were as follows :—22nd January, 28.900 at 2.15 p.m., 12th December 28.857 at 1.30 a.m.

Air Shade Temperatures.—The mean temperature for the year was 77.3° Fahrenheit; the highest recorded being 90° on 17th January and 7th March, and the lowest 60° on 3rd September.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 77.8, the highest, namely 100 per cent., being recorded on the following dates : 9th, 11th, 12th and 16th February, 15th March, 30th April, 5th June, 30th August and 10th and 11th December. The lowest recorded was 48 per cent. on 16th July.

The following table gives the mean monthly temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures, and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentages of relative humidity and the highest and lowest recorded, with the dates of their occurrences during each month of the year :—

Months.	*Temperature in Shade.*					*Humidity (Saturation=100).*				
	Mean.	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*	*Mean.*	*Highest.*	*Date.*	*Lowest.*	*Date.*
January ...	79·8	90	17th	69	25th	76·5	96	23rd	54	26th
February ...	80·1	89	24th	70	2nd	81·6	100	9th, 11th, 12th, 16th.	61	3rd
March... ...	80·3	90	7th	70	14th	78·9	100	15th	59	3rd
April	78·4	87	8th, 25th, 28th.	69	5th, 7th.	77·5	100	30th	57	5th
May	77·2	86	19th, 20th.	66	24th, 26th.	78·3	98	5th	56	26th
June	75·8	87	11th	64	26th, 27th.	82·0	100	5th	59	24th
July	74·7	88	1st	62	16th	76·2	96	21st	48	16th
August ...	72·8	86	20th	62	12th	78·0	100	30th	55	10th, 11th.
September ...	73·4	86	13th, 14th.	60	3rd	73·7	96	20th	51	24th
October ...	76·3	84	9th, 15th, 20th, 28th, 29th.	65	1st, 24th.	76·3	95	7th	58	14th
November ...	79·3	88	8th, 11th.	70	25th	76·3	96	5th	59	19th
December ...	78·9	89	23rd	70	19th	77·9	100	10th, 11th.	57	22nd

The rainfall was plentiful throughout the year, being 31.04 inches above normal. The greatest amount recorded in any period of 24 hours was 11.20 inches on 10th December. The highest rainfall recorded during the year was at Salia Levu, Taveuni, when 20.18 inches fell on 6th October.

The Colony can definitely be divided into the wet districts, which face the south-east trade winds, and the dry districts, which are screened by mountain ranges. The average rainfall for 1929 in the wet districts was 137.77 inches, the heaviest rainfall being 264.23 inches at Salia Levu, in the island of Taveuni. In the dry districts the average was 83.46 inches, the lightest rainfall being 62.94 inches in the district of Nadroga.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During 1929 thirty-nine Ordinances were passed of which the following are the principal :—

The Education Ordinance.—This enactment replaces older legislation. The Board of Education has a general supervision over education. Provision is made for District School Committees. All schools must be either registered or recognized, the former alone being eligible for grants-in-aid. All schools are open for inspection, the number and qualifications of teachers and the books of secular instruction are subject to the approval of the Board of Education. In registered schools the curriculum (which includes agricultural and manual instruction) shall be in conformity with regulations to be made by the Board of Education. All teachers must be registered or recognized. Certificates of registration or recognition of schools or teachers are liable to cancellation for sufficient reason. Districts may be proclaimed in which school attendance is compulsory. The Board has substantial power to make regulations subject to such regulations being approved by the Governor-in-Council.

The Native Dealings (Amendment) Ordinance provides that a District Commissioner shall satisfy himself that a native understands a contract to which he is a party before the contract is registered.

The Oil Mines (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the issue of exploration licences, the leasing of native lands, and the acquisition of freehold or leasehold lands for the purposes of oil leases.

The Prevention of Fires (Amendment) Ordinance makes the duty of assisting to extinguish fires outside a Municipality a public one : hitherto the duty has been imposed on Fijians alone, though under certain repealed Ordinances indentured and immigrant labourers were obliged to assist.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance requires inquests to be held on every prisoner who dies in a gaol.

The Identification of Prisoners Ordinance provides for the identification of prisoners by finger prints. Previous convictions in the Colony or in any part of His Majesty's Dominions, Protectorates, or Mandated Territories may be proved by the identification of finger prints certified to be those of the person previously convicted with the finger prints of the accused person. Finger prints taken on arrest are to be destroyed if the accused is acquitted.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance restricts the legal work which may be done for fee or reward by persons who are not admitted as lawyers in the Colony. Provision is made for the administration through the Supreme Court of workmen's compensation awarded by Courts of Great Britain or the Dominions when the beneficiaries reside in Fiji. This accords with 15 and 16 Geo. V. Ch. 84.

The Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance is modelled on the Tanganyika Interpretation Ordinance, 1928.

The Noxious Weeds and Diseases of Plants Ordinance regulates the importation of plants, the destruction of injurious plants and the planting on land declared to be infected with plant disease.

The Fiji Museum Ordinance provides for the constitution of the Fiji Museum. The Ordinance is based on the Imperial War Memorial Act, 1920.

The Licence (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the issue to British ships of wholesale and retail store licences. Ships cannot trade under the licence in a proclaimed harbour. Bank agencies, not being substantive branches of a bank, can be licensed for a fee of £2 10s. 0d. per annum.

The Forgery Ordinance is a consolidation of the Acts of 1861 and 1913. Hitherto the former only was in force in the Colony.

The Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Ordinance enables a wife to obtain a divorce on the adultery of her husband. The Ordinance is modelled on the English Act of 1923.

The Sinking of Hulks Ordinance regulates the deliberate sinking of old ships in the neighbourhood of the Colony. The intention is to protect submarine cables from damage.

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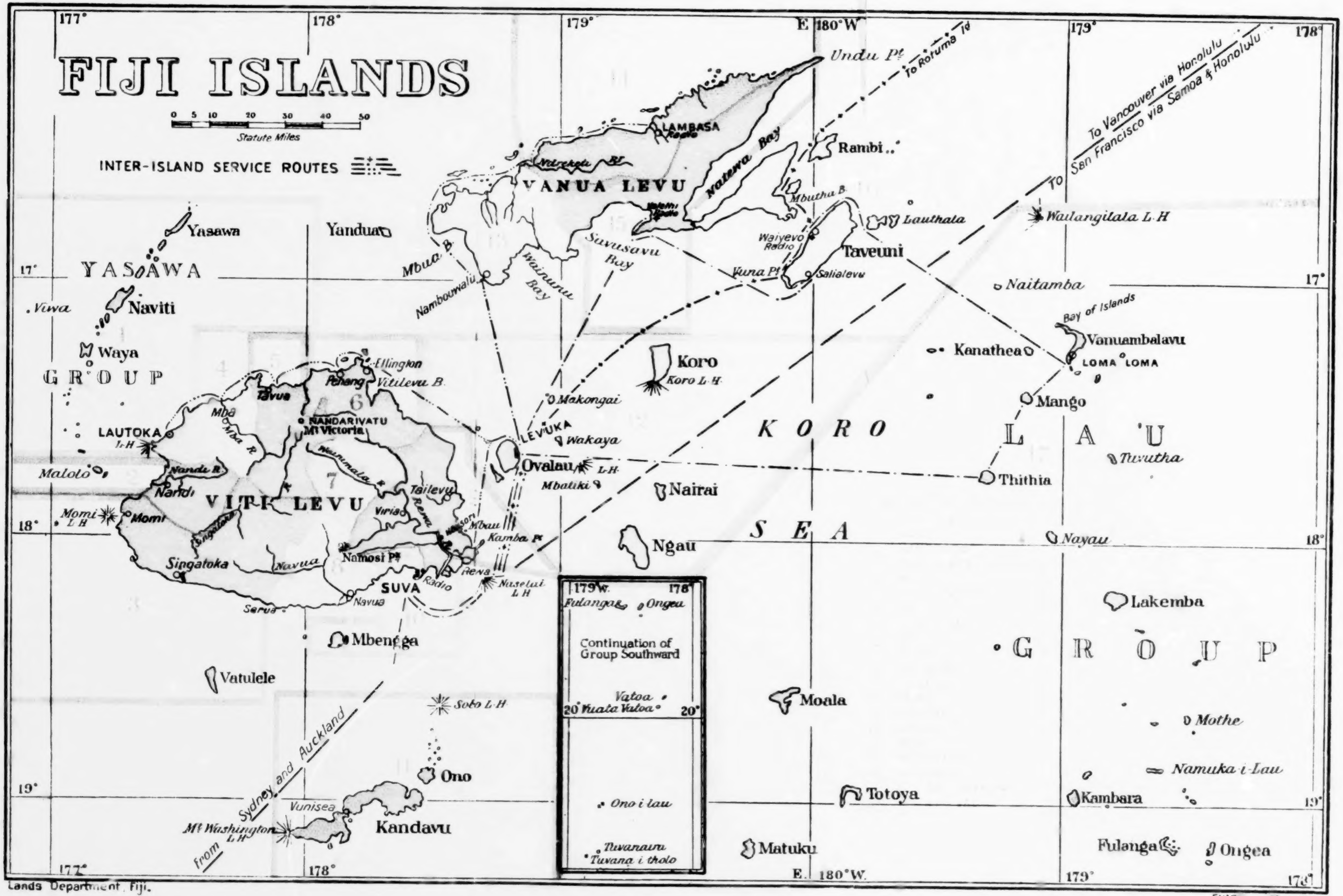
FIJI ISLANDS
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LAMBASA Radio
Rambi
Natewa Bay
VANUA LEVU
Mbutha B.
Lauthala
Wailangilala L.H
Yasawa
Yandua
Savusavu Bay
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Taveuni
YASAWA
Mbua B.
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Vuna Pt
Salialevu
Naitamba
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Naviti
Bay of Islands
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Waya
Koro
Kanathea
LOMA LOMA
GROUP
Koro L.H.
Ellington
Penang
Vitilevu B.
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Makongai
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Mba R.
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Malolo
Nandi R.
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Rewa R.
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Singatoka R.
Kamba Pt
SEA
Ngau
Nayau
Namosi Pt
Singatoka
Navua
Rewa
SUVA
Radio
Naselai L.H
Serua
Navua
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Fulanga
Ongea
Continuation of Group Southward
Lakemba
Mbengga
GROUP
Vatulele
Vatoa
20° Yuata Vatoa 20°
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Mothe
from Sydney and Auckland
Ono
Namuka i Lau
Totoya
Kambara
Vunisea
Ono i lau
Mt Washington L.H
Kandavu
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo
Matuku
Fulanga
Ongea
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E. 180°W.
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178°

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E.W.Simm - May 1927

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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1930.

PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The Fijian group, which lies between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east, comprises about 250 islands, of which about 80 are inhabited. The largest island is Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu; the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

The climate is comparatively cool for the tropics, and there is no malaria.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Historical.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under investigation by research students; in the meantime the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter*, of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew, he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal state. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign state of Cakaudrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society; and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858". The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton, caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated the 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, three other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance, 1928, gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board, whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In each of the country districts there is a Road Board, under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner, who is responsible for the maintenance of the roads in that district. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Section XII, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted as the official language. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 75,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

Currency.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which, with the Government currency notes issue, is the legal tender of the Colony.

The natives refuse to recognize copper coins, and in country stores threepence is usually the lowest charge. The number of pennies in circulation is consequently small.

Weights and Measures.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir A. G. Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., proceeded on sick-leave to Sydney on the 14th June, 1930, and returned to the Colony on the 14th August, 1930. During his absence, the Honourable I. McOwan, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary, administered the Government.

The world-wide trade depression is reflected in the finances of the Colony for the year, which reveal a deficit of £6,529 against an original estimated surplus of £2,750. In view of the conditions prevailing, the result must be regarded as satisfactory. A special appropriation of £9,398 was required for urgent repairs to Government buildings, bridges, wharves, etc., damaged by hurricane and flood. General Customs receipts realized approximately £34,000 less than the estimate, but, by the exercise of economy in every direction possible, this comparatively favourable result was achieved.

The total trade of the Colony was £2,703,710 being £540,897 (16.66 per cent.) less than the total of the previous year. The decrease is due to the world-wide fall in the prices of raw materials with its inevitable repercussion on prices of the staple products of the Colony, more particularly on sugar, copra, and trocas shell.

Compared with last year, imports decreased by £249,425 and exports by £291,472, or by 16.98 per cent. and 16.41 per cent. respectively.

The value of exports exceeded imports by £265,342.

Of the total imports 30.65 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 54.86 from other British possessions, 11.64 per cent. from foreign countries, and 2.85 per cent. through the Parcels Post.

Of the total exports, the United Kingdom took 30.84 per cent., other British possessions 47.80 per cent., foreign countries 21.10 per cent., and ships' stores .26 per cent. It will be seen that the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom is increasing—the percentage of imports rising from 27.28 per cent. in 1928 to 30.65 per cent. in 1930.

Two sessions of the Legislative Council were held in May and October. Among the more important matters dealt with by the Council were the following:—

(*a*) Approval was given to the raising of a loan not exceeding £400,000, as and when required for the execution of certain major public works in the Colony.

(*b*) An Ordinance was passed giving authority for the proclamation of Indian rating areas and the levying of an education rate on male Indians between the ages of 18 and 60 residing in such areas. The sum leviable is not to exceed 50 per cent. of the cost of upkeep of the school or schools in each particular area, the balance being provided from General Revenue.

(*c*) At the October session, approval was given to the putting in hand without delay of three major works, namely, the Rewa River Bridge, the Transinsular Road, and the Cuvu-Yako Road, the estimated cost of which will be £40,300, £94,000, and £27,500 respectively.

A list of the more important Ordinances passed during the year is given in Section XV.

A cyclonic storm swept portions of the group on the 23rd November, and occasioned a considerable amount of damage, principally to crops. The banana-growing areas were the most affected. The copra and sugar cane areas suffered in a lesser degree.

The annual Fiji Agricultural and Horticultural Show was held in October, and was again a pronounced success. Entries were received from all parts of the Colony. The Show, which was opened by His Excellency the Governor, has now become an established and important annual event.

Tourist traffic, which had been well maintained during the earlier part of 1930, fell away considerably during the latter part of the year owing to the financial and trade depression. The majority of visitors to Fiji are from Australia and New Zealand, and the discontinuance of the service formerly provided by the S.S. *Moeraki* between Sydney, New South Wales, and Fiji ports was no doubt partly responsible for the reduction in the number of visitors to the Colony.

Early in the year two epidemics of some severity were experienced in the Colony. An epidemic of bacillary dysentery was general throughout the Group, and affected all races. It is suggested that the extraordinary prevalence of flies which bred in the refuse deposited by the hurricane and floods of December, 1929, was not unconnected with the outbreak of this disease. The dysentery epidemic was followed closely by an outbreak of dengue fever, and it is estimated that about 60 per cent. of the

European population was affected, in addition to large numbers of Fijians and Indians.

Agriculture, the main source of the Colony's wealth, is dealt with in detail under the appropriate head in this report.

The progressive fall in the market price of copra throughout the year and the continued drought in the latter part of 1930 have seriously affected the production of that commodity.

The cotton industry continues to show progress. A sample of the new Kidney Sea Island back-cross cotton which was submitted to the British Cotton Growing Association for examination has been reported on in very favourable terms.

Field work has been continued during 1930, particularly in connexion with the campaign directed towards the improvement of native banana plantations. The Assistant Director of Agriculture paid an official visit to New Zealand to report on the shipment of bananas to New Zealand and their marketing in the Dominion.

As a result of the depredations of the Rhinoceros beetle in Western Samoa, it was decided to impose strict regulations governing the movement of plant matter from territories declared to be infected with this pest.

In July, 1930, an inter-insular seaplane service was inaugurated. This service consisted of a seaplane, carrying both mails and passengers, which flew to various parts of the Group, working, weather and other circumstances permitting, to a time-table. This service was of particular importance to settlers in the more isolated districts of the Group, providing, as it did, a speeding up of mails and a means of rapid transport to Suva in cases of emergency. Unfortunately, financial considerations have made it impossible to afford official support to this service during 1931, but it is continuing as a private enterprise, though no longer carrying mails or passengers in accordance with a regular schedule.

The estimated population of Fiji was on the 31st day of December, 1930, as follows:—

Europeans	5,078
Half-castes	3,333
Fijians	92,189
Polynesians	1,828
Indians	75,117
Rotumans	2,331
Chinese	1,503
Other Nationalities	1,197
	182,576

Fijians comprised 50.49 per cent, Indians 41.14 per cent, Europeans 2.78 per cent, Half-castes 1.81 per cent, Rotumans 1.28 per cent, Polynesians 1 per cent, Chinese 0.81 per cent, and

Others 0.69 per cent of the total population. The population shows an estimated increase of 25,310 since the 1921 census, or an aggregate rate of increase of 16.09 per cent. The estimated number of persons to the square mile in Fiji is 24.56: The European population shows an estimated increase of 352, Indians 1,996, Fijians 478, and Rotumans 65, for the year.

The following is a table analysing the estimated increase of population since the last census taken in 1921 :—

Class of Population.	1921 *Census.*	*Estimated* 31/12/30.	*Increase.*	*Per cent.*
Europeans	3,878	5,078	1,200	30·94
Half-castes	2,781	3,333	552	19·85
Fijians	84,475	92,189	7,714	9·13
Polynesians	1,564	1,828	264	16·88
Indians	60,634	75,117	14,483	23·89
Rotumans	2,235	2,331	96	4·34
Chinese	910	1,503	593	65·16
Others	789	1,197	408	53·31
Total ...	157,266	182,576	25,310	16·09

The average birth-rate per thousand of the total population was 35.49, and the average death-rate was 22.19.

The following table shows the average birth and death-rates per thousand for the years 1925 to 1930 :—

Class of Population.	*Birth-rate per 1,000.*						*Death-rate per 1,000.*					
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930
Europeans	16·68	18·16	24·78	17·42	19·88	16·94	9·08	9·32	9·60	7·62	8·46	9·45
Half-castes	29·65	31·91	23·08	32·56	35·96	30·30	7·33	12·69	7·37	9·39	9·44	14·70
Fijians ...	32·29	33·95	32·53	33·36	31·91	36.43	22·75	23·09	22·98	24·95	24·66	31·24
Indians ...	33·14	32·65	27·72	34·90	34·86	36.02	7·25	8·26	9·42	10·80	9·06	12·30
Rotumans	56·97	48·95	50·47	52·21	50·75	54·91	64·38	28·29	36·29	51·77	48·10	27·03

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the last six years :—

Class of population.	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*
Europeans	28	38	34	47	46	33
Half-castes...	22	14	16	41	28	21
Fijians	857	708	760	906	973	744
Indians	174	195	254	276	879	1,926
Rotumans	23	37	28	11	27	15

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of Indian marriages, which have increased by 1,047 over the previous year.

A return of the population, and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.	Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in			Births. Number and Rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.
		Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males	Females			Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial.			
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.															
Europeans { Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878		—	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—
Europeans { Rotuma	14	23	7	—	—										
Half-castes { Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781		—	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—
Half-castes { Rotuma	—	—	—	29	23										
Fijians	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475		—	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—
Indians	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634		—	8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—
‡Polynesians... ...	—	—	—	1,271	293	1,564		—	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235		—	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	—	—	—	845	65	910		—	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	431	358	789		—	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—
Total ...	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266		—	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1930.															
													Number. Rate.		Number. Rate.
Europeans	—	2,683	2,395	—	—	5,078		Nil	·68	—	—	—	86—16·94	33	48—9·45
Half-castes	—	—	—	1,720	1,613	3,333		Do.	·45	—	—	—	101—30·30	21	49—14·70
Fijians	—	—	—	47,384	44,805	92,189		Do.	12·39	—	—	—	3,358—36·43	744	2,880—31·24
‡Polynesians... ...	—	—	—	1,300	528	1,828		Do.	·25	—	—	—	43—23·52	10	46—25·16
Indians	—	—	—	44,989	30,128	75,117		Do.	10·10	—	—	—	2,706—36·02	1,926†	924—12·30
Rotumans (Rotuma)	—	—	—	1,146	1,185	2,331		Do.	166·50	—	—	—	128—54·91	15	63—27·03
Chinese	—	—	—	1,377	126	1,503		Do.	·20	—	—	—	27—17·96	—	15—9·98
Others...	—	—	—	783	414	1,197		Do.	·16	—	—	—	31—25·90	5	26—21·72
Totals ...	7,435	2,683	2,395	98,699	78,799	—		—	24·56	—	—	—	6,480—35·49	2,754	4,051—22·19
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	182,576		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† This includes 578 Indian Customary Marriages registered under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 27 of 1928.

‡ "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	—	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	—	187,721

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1930 an accumulated surplus of £187,721. From this, it will be seen that during the years mentioned the very satisfactory improvement in the Colony's financial position of £431,202 was effected. These figures are, however, exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of 1930 at £113,595, an improvement in this case of £39,313.

An item in the Colony's Balance Sheet which appears both as an asset and a liability is the before-mentioned Immigration Fund of £113,595. Except for the fact that this sum is earmarked for a specific purpose, it is a free asset, which, added to the shown surplus of assets over liabilities of £187,721, makes the Colony's available accumulated funds on Revenue Account £301,316.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied during the last seven or eight years, and placed upon a wider and more equitable basis, only a slight increase has been introduced, yet not only has the financial position been consolidated, and satisfactory reserves accumulated, but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which directly affect the welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The expenditure in 1930 was greater than in any previous year in the history of Fiji. Further, the Colony did not remain unaffected by the world-wide trade depression, and for the first time for many years there was a deficit on Revenue Account, amounting to approximately £6,529. There was a consequent reduction in the excess of assets over liabilities, but in spite of the unpromising outlook for 1931, the financial position at the end of 1930 can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes and English coins. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	437,983
Assets :—	
Gold reserve (sovereigns)	88,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1930)	387,583
Depreciation Fund Investments	42,149
	£518,213
Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1930 ...	£80,230

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1930 produced a net surplus of £31,604 as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities and Surplus Investments realized		45,757
Expenses	536	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,791	
Refund of amount due to Treasury	9,826	
		14,153
	Surplus ...	£31,604

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1930, was as under :—

	£
Consolidated and Funding Loan	765,000
Public Purposes Loan	171,408
Total ...	£936,408

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent. and being issued at 101.

A further loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. During that year £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. This loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,500,000, while that of the latter is £6,858,113. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,119,690, and by the Bank of New Zealand, £361,863.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 9,024 to 9,977, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £149,292 to £152,386. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £18 less than the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1929.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1930, was £170,172, as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1930)	182,117	
Cash in hand	249	
		182,366
Surplus ...		£12,194

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1930 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from Investments ...		9,661
Interest credited to Depositors ...	5,237	
Salaries	1,391	
Expenses	150	
		6,778
Surplus ...		£2,883

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agricultural Conditions.

Abnormal weather conditions prevailed during most of the year, and practically all crops suffered from lack of rain. Dry conditions were experienced throughout the Group from June to November causing a check to crop development with low yields. Coconuts, which had suffered severe damage from the storm of December, 1929, did not recover to the extent hoped for. The rice crop was a poor one, but cotton yields were good on most of the areas planted.

On the 23rd November, 1930, a severe hurricane passed through the Group causing grave damage to property and crops, particularly in Ra, Colo North, Colo East, Tailevu, and Lomaiviti. Bananas in the Wainibuka River district, in parts of Tailevu, and in Moturiki (a small island south-west of Ovalau), Moala, and Gau suffered badly. Most of the old plantings were destroyed and many of the new areas just coming into bearing received a severe setback resulting in considerable loss to growers. Native houses and food crops in the districts mentioned were seriously damaged and in many instances destroyed.

Sugar Cane.

The production of raw sugar in 1930 amounted to 93,000 tons, which is approximately the average of recent years. 90,979 tons were exported during the year. Of this total the United Kingdom took 39,430 tons; Canada 38,604 tons; New Zealand 9,739 tons; Australia 3,165 tons; and other countries 41 tons.

Fiji suffered from the unprecedently low prices ruling in the world's markets, but there was no reduction in the price paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited to growers for their cane. The effect of the hurricane of December, 1929, was accentuated by dry weather throughout the greater part of 1930 and caused a reduction of about 25 per cent in the sugar cane crop in the Labasa district. The severe drought experienced in the sugar belt on the northern and western coasts of Vitilevu resulted also in a considerable reduction in the tonnage of sugar cane harvested in that area, although there was a compensatingly high sucrose content of the canes. The excellent cultural methods practised by the farmers, including the conservation of soil moisture, to some extent discounted the adverse weather conditions. The production of cane by East Indian farmers has been well maintained and the growing of cane by Fijians has recently received an impetus. The crop produced by natives at all mill centres amounted to 7,476 tons of cane. Some 80 per cent of the total sugar cane produced in the Colony is now grown by small-holders, mainly Indian. Work has been continued by the field staff of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited on the breeding of new cane varieties. Pests and diseases are under control and progress has been made in checking the damage caused by the cane borer, particularly in the Labasa district. Exports of sugar for the past five years have been :—

	Tons.
1926	56,991
1927	72,753
1928	120,683
1929	72,275
1930	90,979

Copra.

23,882 tons of copra were exported during 1930, a reduction of 9,344 tons on the exports of 1929. The fall in production was principally due to the serious effects of the hurricane of December, 1929, and to a lesser extent to the continued low prices which discouraged some non-European plantation owners from cutting copra. The further decline in market prices was a serious feature, and though there were some signs of a slight recovery towards the end of the year, the outlook is still somewhat uncertain. The decision of the whaling companies to restrict killing should remove the effect of a large surplus of whale oil in the near future, and as a result it is hoped that the copra position will surely if slowly improve.

Pests.

The control of some of the major pests of coconuts was well maintained throughout the year. The Levuana position may now be regarded as assured. Minor outbreaks are likely to occur occasionally but this is not an undesirable feature, as it will help to maintain the control agents in sufficient numbers to deal with the pest. *Tirathaba* shows promising signs of succumbing to the attack of *Apanteles tirathabae*, successfully introduced, bred and distributed.

Rats are the cause of serious losses to copra producers, and present a problem of some difficulty. The loss directly attributable to rat damage has been investigated and possible remedial measures examined. Little, if any, success appears to have attended the introduction of the owls *Ninox Noviae Hollandiae* liberated in January, 1930. Details of methods of baiting and trapping have been published, but apathy on the part of many whose plantations are affected makes the initiation of a co-operative campaign of rat destruction difficult. The problem continues to engage the attention of the Coconut Committee.

The Copra Ordinance, with amendments, was administered with some success, and 11 licences to purchase green copra were issued. It is hoped gradually to improve the types of kilns used for drying and so to raise the standard of the copra produced.

Bananas.

It is regrettable to have to record a further decline in the export of bananas, which amounted in 1930 to 84,522 cases as compared with 192,429 cases in 1929. The industry remains almost entirely a native one, and is centred in those districts which were visited by the hurricanes of December, 1929, and November, 1930. Many of the areas planted under the direction of officers of the Department suffered severely from those storms, but although a serious setback in production has resulted, many areas previously regarded as unsuitable for planting have been covered with silt which will enable this crop to be again grown on them.

The island of Kadavu showed a greatly increased output of fruit towards the end of the year. Native growers appear to be displaying commendable activity as a result of the encouragement afforded to them by the District Commissioner and of the assistance and advice supplied by officers of the Agricultural Department. Savu Savu, Koro, and Taveuni appear likely to produce increasing quantities of excellent quality fruit, and arrangements have been made for the regular visits by a licensed buyer to the two former districts which should show substantial progress in 1931.

Fijians in the Waidina, Wainimala, and Wainibuka districts continue to take a keen interest in banana planting in spite of constantly recurring adverse weather conditions. The extended use of agricultural implements which is now being officially encouraged should help quickly to re-establish those areas as banana producing districts.

During the year a stricter interpretation of the Regulations governing the purchase and export of bananas from proclaimed areas was adopted. It has previously been understood that the licensed buyer was responsible entirely for the quality of fruit purchased and exported, and that no export inspection of his fruit could be made by an Inspector. It is clear from the Regulations that all fruit is liable to inspection prior to shipment and that the buyer's " responsibility " includes his liability for loss occasioned by the rejection of his fruit on inspection. That is, any financial loss occurring in that way must be borne by him and not by the grower. The marked improvement in quality which resulted from a more efficient and complete inspection indicated the success of the measures adopted, and the increased prices and favourable reports from Auckland showed that the action taken was in every way justified.

Little progress was made during the year in the control of pests and diseases, though an experimental area was planted with bananas in readiness for investigational work in 1931. A number of valuable field surveys were made with a view to estimating the incidence of banana diseases. Observations indicated the need for better cultural methods and the maintenance of soil fertility in banana plantations either by manuring or by a system of crop rotation.

Other fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

Increases in the quantities of pineapples, paw-paws, and kumalas exported occurred, while most other items showed a slight decrease. The effect of the New Zealand import duty of 2d. per lb. on tomatoes was reflected in the reduction in the export of tomatoes to that Dominion. In 1929 4,303 boxes of tomatoes were consigned to New Zealand, the figure for 1930 being 1,607 boxes.

In 1930, 1,404 sacks of kumalas were exported to Vancouver, as compared with none in 1929. Recent information indicates that there are excellent opportunities of developing trade with Vancouver in certain agricultural products of Fiji, particularly coconuts, maize, green ginger, and peanuts. Kumalas of the white variety should find a ready market there during the winter months, December to April.

Cotton.

Purchases of seed cotton at the two ginneries totalled 535,738 lb., as compared with 344,399 lb. for the preceding season. Approximately one-half was Sea Island, the remainder being Kidney selection. 387.76 bales of 400 lb. of cotton lint were pressed, an increase of 142.49 bales over the output for 1928-29. The severe depression of the cotton market caused very low prices to be realized, which were 50 per cent lower than the valuation of samples a year earlier. It has, therefore, been regretfully decided to discontinue the planting of the New Guinea Kidney hybrid, a variety which does not command a place among " speciality " cottons and cannot therefore bear heavy transport and overhead charges. A new Kidney Sea Island back-cross shows considerable promise. It yields heavily and appears to be a suitable type to replace Sea Island.

Rice.

This is an important crop as rice is a staple food of the Indians in the Colony. Under present local conditions it will remain a peasant industry. The average annual production has been calculated at approximately 8,500 tons, valued at £127,500. Local production is still far short of requirements so that heavy importations are necessary to meet the demand. In 1930, 800 tons of rice were imported.

Purchases of paddy by the Government Rice Mill amounted to 306 tons as compared with 1,461 tons in the previous season. Two mills established by local firms, one in Suva and one in Levuka, and certain smaller mills, owned and operated by Indians in the rice-growing districts, offer alternative means of disposal of growers' surplus. The smaller mills are single units which carry out the whole operation of milling by one machine. The husk is not separated from the bran with the result that the by-product is not nearly so suitable for cattle food as the bran from the larger mills.

Dairying.

This industry continues to develop. A more general improvement in grass land, the adoption of more up-to-date farming methods, and the introduction and breeding of a greater number of better-class dairy stock would considerably increase the present rate of production. The hurricane of December, 1929, affected dairy farmers adversely, as it did most agricultural activities. The dry and cool weather experienced for several months during the year caused some shortage of pasture.

The Fiji Pastoral Company is progressing on sound lines, and has now in its employ a qualified herd tester. Pig breeding is being carried on as a subsidiary industry with satisfactory results. Coconuts have been planted to provide additional pig feed in the future, and several hundred *Ficus Benjamina* have been established for shade purposes in the pastures. The total number of calvings on the Company's estates was 647 during the year, and the average number of cows in milk was 502. The butter fat production from the estates amounted to 98,402 lb. The factory made 171,306 lb. of butter during the year, an increase of 27,422 lb. (16 per cent.) over the output for 1929.

The Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company Limited produced 144,577 lb. of butter in 1930, while the output of the Tailevu Dairy Factory was 124,394 lb.

The table below gives details of the butter industry for the past five years. The import duty of 4d. per lb. on Empire butter and 8d. per lb. on foreign butter was continued during the year. Local market prices in 1930 were :—

	Pats.		*Bulk.*	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
January/June	1	9	1	8½
July/October	1	8	1	7½
November/December	1	6	1	5½

Year.	*Total Production.* *lb.*	*Total Exports.* *lb.*
1926	247,724	58,800
1927	295,677	54,208
1928	307,989	34,048
1929	392,214	79,968
1930	440,277	101,136

Additional encouragement was given to the dairying and stock-raising industries by the introduction in June, 1930, of an amended scheme for subsidizing the importation of pedigree and grade stock. The former subsidy of £7 per head on pedigree cattle and horses nine months old and upwards was increased to £10 per head, payable when the animals attained the age of nine months. Thus an importer can now, for example, purchase weaned pedigree calves under nine months old and claim the subsidy on the animals attaining the stipulated age.

In order to help dairymen more rapidly to improve their herds, a subsidy of £5 per head was approved for imported grade female calves of proved butter fat " backing ".

Twenty-two cattle were imported and £163 paid under this scheme.

Pineapples.

The two pineapple canning projects made good progress during the year, and the experimental work of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company was continued. The prospects for this new industry to the Colony appear to be excellent. Increased interest was evidenced by certain European settlers in the Tailevu district who undertook to grow and supply pines to the Fijian Pineapple Company's cannery at Waidau (Ovalau), and active steps had been taken by the end of the year to encourage planting by Fijians in the Bureta district, Ovalau and in the island of Moturiki.

The Fijian Pineapple Company reported that a further 17 acres were planted in crowns or tops, and 25 acres were in suckers and slips during the summer season of 1929-30 (November to March). The suckers and slips gave a 70 per cent. crop of excellent quality fruit for the 1930-31 summer pack.

A total area of 92 acres was under pineapples at the end of the 1929-30 season. Of this, 60 acres were in full bearing at the end of 1930. 497 tons of fruit had been harvested in the 1930-31 summer season up to the beginning of February, 1931. By that time 16,150 cases (of 2½ lb. or 2 lb. cans) had been canned in the 1930-31 season, together with 20 cases of crushed pineapple, each case containing the equivalent of 64 cans of the 2 lb. size.

Colonies of Japanese and Chinese growers were established successfully during 1930 within easy reach of the Waidau cannery.

Meat Cannery.

The meat cannery established in 1928 has ceased working and the project abandoned by the promoters of the Tova scheme. The possibilities of exporting chilled beef are being explored.

Forestry.

During the year a Conservator of Forests was appointed and assumed duty in September. He was placed under the administrative control of the Director of Agriculture and for the remainder of the year was employed in a survey of the mangrove forests of south-eastern Vitilevu.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1930 amounted to £2,703,710, being £540,897 less than in 1929. The total value of imports was £1,219,184 in 1930 and £1,468,609 in 1929—a decrease of £249,425 in 1930. The total value of exports in 1930 amounted to £1,484,526 and in 1929 £1,775,998—a decrease of £291,472 in 1930.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420
1929	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607
1930	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710

Imports.

During the same period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*
Country.	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	444,047	316,824	404,718	418,570	373,694
Australia	607,171	528,740	621,396	543,963	449,845
Canada	59,633	51,105	70,262	84,822	60,076
Hong Kong and China ...	8,880	7,839	11,719	11,039	9,469
India	48,161	45,253	44,613	69,222	43,239
New Zealand	142,225	124,775	140,697	140,418	102,339
Japan	30,067	13,454	28,811	23,576	17,135
Dutch East Indies ...	—	—	11,976	20,746	21,889
United States	123,574	122,470	131,994	121,441	86,224

and the proportion of total import trade done with the principal countries was as follows :—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*
Country.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	29·99	25·90	27·28	28·50	30·65
Australia	41·00	43·22	41·90	37·04	36·90
Canada	4·03	4·18	4·19	5·77	4·94
Hong Kong and China ...	·50	·64	·80	·75	·78
India	3·25	3·70	3·00	4·03	3·55
New Zealand	9·60	10·20	9·48	9·56	8·39
Japan	2·03	1·09	1·94	1·60	1·45
Dutch East Indies ...	—	—	·80	1·41	1·80
United States	8·34	10·02	8·90	8·20	7·06

It will be observed that the United Kingdom in the past five years has more or less maintained her share of the import trade, while that of Australia shows a gradual decrease. The principal articles imported from United Kingdom in 1930 were drapery, hardware, iron galvanized, machinery, manures, matches, paints, spirits, toys, and fancy goods.

From Australia.—Bags and sacks, beer, fancy biscuits, coal, drapery, drugs, flour, sharps, hardware, machinery, soap, tea, timber, tobacco, and cigarettes.

From Canada.—Fish canned, motor vehicles, timber, and tyres and tubes.

From Hong Kong and China.—Drapery, and vegetables preserved.

From India.—Bags and sacks, mustard oil, ghee, and ghee substitutes.

From New Zealand.—Fruit and vegetables fresh, meats, photographs and films, and tea.

From Dutch East Indies.—Crude oil, kerosene, and motor fuel.

From Japan.—Drapery.

From United States.—Hardware, machinery, kerosene, motor fuel, lubricating oil, and timber.

Exports.

The following return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

		1926.		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*1930.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... Tons	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215	120,683	1,827,095	72,275	881,263	90,979	853,833
Copra ...	... Tons	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416	27,947	567,254	33,226	563,978	23,882	369,524
Molasses ...	... Tons	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181	14,599	14,599	9,845	9,845	12,337	12,337
Bananas ...	Bunches	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819	521,003	147,781	384,858	107,280	169,044	57,178
Rubber ...	... lb.	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276	94,661	4,704	6,855	224	6,397	209
Gum ...	... cwt.	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707	865	1,212	2,533	3,548	2,875	4,025
Shell, turtle	... lb.	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382	1,965½	2,461	1,908½	2,774	1,196	1,729
Shell, trocas	... tons	378	30,540	269	16,355	232	13,693	192	11,476	193	11,209
Bêche-de-mer	... cwt.	886	3,909	1,412	6,496	601	3,361	1,049	6,044	2,672	13,886
Biscuits ...	... lb.	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334	438,211	11,306	373,793	9,507	338,892	8,456
Butter ...	... cwt.	525	3,616	484	3,615	303½	2,269	714	5,747	903	6,496
Cotton ...	... lb.	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593	75,366	5,339	49,115	3,348	127,077	6,727
Oil, coconut	... tons	91½	4,387	79	3,357	101½	4,421	96	4,038	69	2,451
Fruit, other fresh		—	6,579	—	5,536	—	1,256	—	2,644	—	341
Vegetables	... cwt.	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717	9,147	6,169	11,108	7,444	8,568	5,459
Pines, Canned	... lb.	—	—	145,824	1,801	245,799	4,249	128,210	2,276	306,913	6,593
Pines, Fresh	... c/s.	9,932	3,277	7,021	2,124	5,667	1,703	6,170	1,848	7,633	2,296
Hides ...	... No.	3,867	2,707	3,771	3,896	6,485	9,311	9,557	6,668	5,856	4,216

The principal articles exported during the year 1930 were sugar, copra, bananas, trocas shell, bêche-de-mer, biscuits, butter, cotton, canned pineapples, and vegetables (fresh).

Owing to the drop in price in the world's market of sugar and copra, the value of these two commodities has fallen. The value of the sugar exported in 1930 was £853,833, representing a tonnage of 90,979 tons, of which 39,430 tons were shipped to the United Kingdom, 38,604 tons to Canada, 9,739 tons to New Zealand, 3,165 tons to Australia, and 41 tons to other Pacific Islands. In 1929, the quantity exported was 72,275 tons, value £881,263, being 18,704 tons less than 1930. Of the 23,882 tons of copra exported in 1930, valued at £369,524, 4,982 tons were exported to United Kingdom, 2,377 tons to France, 283 tons to Germany, 300 tons to Holland, 2,672 tons to Spain, 12,934 tons to United States, 295 tons to Australia, and 39 tons to Hawaii. In 1929, the quantity exported was 33,226 tons, valued at £563,978. The banana industry is the one most suited to the natives and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present, but it is thought possible that, with improved methods of planting and packing, entry may again be made into the markets of Australia, from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for many years. Owing to the damage caused by hurricane and floods to the banana plantations in December, 1929, the quantity exported in 1930 was 215,814 bunches less and the value £50,102 less than in 1929. Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber, cotton, butter, and canned pines. Owing to the low market value of rubber in the United Kingdom, there has been a considerable falling off in the export of this commodity as compared with previous years.

The whole of the cotton exported in 1930 was shipped to the United Kingdom, the quantity being 127,077 lb. valued at £6,727, an increase in quantity of 77,962 lb. and in value of £3,379 over 1929.

The quantity of butter exported in 1930 was 903 cwt. of a value of £6,496, the 1929 figure being exceeded by 189 cwt. Of the quantity exported in 1930, 33 cwt. were exported to United Kingdom, 364 cwt. to Canada, 141 cwt. to New Zealand, 294 cwt. to Hawaii, and 71 cwt. to other Pacific Islands.

The quantity of canned pines exported in 1930 was 306,913 lb., value £6,593, as compared with 128,210 lb., value £2,276, exported in 1929. Of the quantity exported in 1930, 112,050 lb., value £2,532, were shipped to the United Kingdom; 193,280 lb., value £4,032, to New Zealand; 156 lb., value £3, to Australia; 140 lb., value £2, to United States; 135 lb., value £2, to Italy; and

1,152 lb., value £22, to other Pacific Islands. It is anticipated that the quantity to be exported in 1931 will far exceed that of previous years.

Of the secondary industries, biscuits and soap, the quantity of locally-manufactured biscuits exported in 1930 was 338,892 lb., value £8,456, and of soap 25 tons, value £694; markets being found for these commodities in Samoa, Tonga, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Wallis Island, Futuna, and American Samoa.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Inter-island communication was provided during the year by the two subsidized vessels *Makatea* and *Sir John Forrest*. The itinerary of the first included Taveuni, Rotuma, and the Lau Islands, and of the latter the Vanualevu coast from Nabouwalu to Labasa. The island of Vitilevu was served by vessels of the Fiji Shipping Company and various small launches. A seaplane service operated between Suva and Lautoka, Suva and Taveuni, and Suva and Labasa during the latter portion of the year.

External communication was provided principally by steamers of the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line and of the Matson Navigation Company. The former Company is paid an annual subsidy of £5,000 and its vessels called at Suva once every four weeks during their voyages in each direction on the route Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Honolulu, and Vancouver. The Matson Navigation Company's vessels called at Suva once every three weeks while *en route* between San Francisco, Honolulu, and Sydney, and vice versa. There were also eight steamers direct from England via the Panama Canal.

For the first eight months of the year a three-weekly passenger and cargo service was provided between Sydney, Lautoka, Suva, and Levuka by the steamer *Moeraki;* this was replaced by a four-weekly cargo service only, from September, 1930. The steamer *Tofua* continued to provide a four-weekly service with Auckland, Tonga, and Samoa.

Internal telegraphic communication is provided by land line between Suva and Levuka and between Suva and Ba and Lautoka through Nausori and Nadarivatu. A line was built during the year between Nanukuloa Hospital (in the district of Ra), Penang, and Tavua. Tavua is already connected by telephone to Ba and Nadarivatu, and the new line provides communication between the District Commissioner, Ra, and Tavua, Ba, and Lautoka, and also between Ra and Suva through Ba.

Wireless communication was maintained by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited stations at Suva, Labasa, Taveuni, and Savu Savu.

External telegraphic communication was provided by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited (Cable Company), and the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited station at Suva.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these Sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *Nisi Prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the Chief Justice is vested with the same powers and authorities as the Lord Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

In addition to the Local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases, the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers on full pay, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen. In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to " The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875 " forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by " The Civil Procedure Rules (1875) " or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890.
Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905.
Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided‡ in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

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* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

† Rules, 1906.

‡ Ordinance 2 of 1903.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdicton over natives of the Colony only. A new edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance. 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

On the criminal side of the Supreme Court there were, during the year 1930, 48 cases committed for trial involving some 67 accused. Amongst the cases heard were 9 for murder. Trials during the year held at the Central Criminal Court and Circuit Court resulted in 51 convictions and 9 acquittals. With regard to the balance, the Attorney-General entered a *Nolle Prosequi* in the case of 8 accused.

On the civil side, 115 actions were instituted in the Supreme Court during the year under review, as follows :—summonses for debt, etc., 72; actions under mortgages, etc., 8; summonses for rent and rates, 8; actions for damages, 3; originating summonses, 6; actions for specific performance, 3; Petitions for Reduction of Capital, 1; Admission of Barristers, etc., 2; miscellaneous, 11.

In the Appellate jurisdiction there were 3 criminal and 6 civil appeals lodged.

In the Divorce Court, 13 petitions were filed, 6 being from Europeans and half-castes and the others from Indian petitioners. Petitions for divorce by natives under the provisions of the Divorce Regulations numbered 73. Ninety-six grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year, and in the Bankruptcy Court 3 petitions were presented, two by an Indian, and the other being the voluntary liquidation of a Company.

Police.

(*a*) *Strength.*—On 31st December, 1930, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was :—

Europeans :—	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, First Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, Second Grade	8
Fijians :—	
N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	90
Indians :—	
N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	90

The headquarters of the force are at Suva, with a central station at Totogo, and a depot at Nasova.

Detachments are distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no officers the detachments come under the supervision of District Commissioners.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*—The total cost of the Force for all services was £24,665 9s. 10d. and the cost per caput of population was 2s. 8d.

(*c*) *Crime.*—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 3,269, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	215
Offences against property	412
Other offences	2,642

(*d*) *Immigration.*—Strict supervision is exercised over destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

(*e*) *Traffic.*—Motor traffic is under the control of the Constabulary. Registries exist in those districts where officers are stationed.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 1,406 being as follows :—

Motor cars for private use	542
Public motor cars	332
Lorries	340
Motor cycles	192

Two hundred and eighty persons were convicted of offences against the traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

(*f*) *Training.*—Regular parades are held throughout the year and the men are put through an annual course of musketry. The Constabulary parades for an annual inspection by the Governor, and also with the Defence Force on ceremonial occasions. Such instruction in police duties as is possible is given but in the absence of a reserve it is difficult to arrange for a complete course of training for recruits.

(*g*) *Health.*—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony.

(*h*) *Transport.*—Officers are required to find their own means of transport (car, motor cycle, or horse), for which they receive allowances, but the rank and file discharge their police duties on foot.

Prisons.

The administration of the prisons throughout the Colony is under the control of the Superintendent of Prisons, with headquarters at the Central Gaol, Suva.

In addition to the Central Gaol there are 17 provincial gaols. Each provincial gaol is supervised by the District Inspector of Constabulary, or, where no constabulary officer is stationed, by the District Commissioner. In these provincial gaols only short term prisoners are confined, and these are employed principally in maintaining the Government station. Only a limited number of prisoners are allowed to each provincial gaol, the excess being transferred to the Central Gaol in accordance with prison rules.

The Central Gaol, Suva, is an up-to-date establishment. The prisoners are confined in modern buildings of brick and concrete, each cell having adequate ventilation and light. All buildings are lighted by electricity.

Each prisoner is provided with as thorough a course of moral, physical, and industrial training as is possible. The industries established under competent European overseers are tinsmithy, blacksmithy, carpentry, matmaking, tailoring, sailmaking, a bakery, which supplies bread to the various Government institutions in and around Suva, and an electrical sawing plant which supplies over 2,400 tons of firewood annually to Government.

Ministers of several denominations visit the gaol on Sundays and hold services for prisoners of the various races and religions.

All sick prisoners are treated in a fully equipped prison infirmary by a qualified resident Native Medical Practitioner under the supervision of the Visiting Medical Officer.

Remission of sentence by good conduct and industry can be obtained under the mark system by all prisoners serving a sentence exceeding 6 months, a quarter by males, and one-third by females.

Female prisoners are housed in a separate compound under the charge of a matron and assistant.

All prisoners are provided with religious and educational books.

The subordinate staff are native Fijians and Sikhs. The majority of the latter are ex-service men and all are under the direct supervision of efficient European officers.

Prisoners are classified as follows :—

First Class—Debtors, persons confined for contempt of Court, persons committed under civil process or for failure to provide sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour.

The question of a training school for youthful offenders is under consideration. At present juvenile offenders, of whom there is only one, are usefully employed on the Quarantine Island station (situated about 8 miles from Suva) under European supervision.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from Public Funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department, amounted in all to £212,792 0s. 6d. and was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Personal Emoluments and Other Charges ...	28,634	2	10
Works Recurrent	85,882	13	10
Works Extraordinary	18,948	2	6
Loan Works	51,094	10	5
Miscellaneous	28,232	4	11
	£212,792	0	6

The corresponding figures for the last five years are given hereunder for comparison.

1926	149,889
1927	191,325
1928	205,234
1929	242,077
1930	212,792

The administration of Public Works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works, with headquarters at Suva. For general executive purposes, the Colony is divided into three districts with headquarters in Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is in charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government Stores, the machine shops, the repair shops, the Government slipways, the garages of the Department, and the offices of the District and Mechanical Engineers. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, etc., also operates from Walu Bay. An important addition was made during the year to the fleet of the Department by the building and putting into service of the work boat *Derek*. This vessel fills a long felt want and has proved her usefulness by the speed and certainty with which she transports public works materials throughout the group.

The slipways were kept busy throughout the year, and the small slipway completed at the end of 1929 was found to be of great use in dealing with the small craft which hitherto usually had their underwater repairs done on the beach at low tide.

There was ample labour both skilled and unskilled available for carrying out the works programme during the year; the average number of skilled and unskilled employed in the Suva district during the year was 148 and 552 respectively. The expenditure incurred by the District and Mechanical Engineers was £68,859 5s. 10d. and £43,315 6s. 3d. respectively, giving a total of £112,174 12s. 1d.

During the year the road between the Government headquarters in the Rewa District, and the Tailevu Dairy Settlement was completed at a total cost of £25,700. The extension of this road northwards, officially described as " the Transinsular Road " was begun towards the end of the year. The approval of this latter work will enable the roads in the northern and southern coast of Vitilevu to be linked up rendering possible rapid and easy communication between the various centres of population. Another link in this chain of roads will be that from Yako to Cuvu on the western and southern side of Vitilevu. The work on the last-named road was not started during the year as detail surveys had not been completed. Early in 1930, work was begun on the Wakaya lighthouse, on the wharf, road and dam at Makogai, on the wharf at Savu Savu. and on the hospitals at Taveuni and Labasa. The three first named works were finished towards the end of the year and the remaining ones were well in hand at its close. The seven bungalows for Civil Servants erected in the Domain Circular Road at Suva were completed during the year. The provision of these bungalows has alleviated in some measure the dearth of suitable housing for Civil Servants stationed at Suva.

Roads and bridges in all parts of the Colony continued to receive the special attention of the Department. The total expenditure under this heading was £56,300, of which £21,487 was from Loan funds. The streets and roads within the municipal areas of Suva and Levuka, are maintained by their respective Councils. During the year a saving was effected on the upkeep of the roads which are in the Suva district but outside the municipality to the extent of £2,277. The greater part of this saving was made by the introduction of the mulch system of road maintenance. This system consists in the application of a carpet of ¾ inch gravel or crushed metal to the road about 1 inch in thickness. This carpet rolls under the action of the traffic filling up inequalities in the surface and furnishes a surface which is both smooth to ride over and cheap to maintain. This type of surface is maintained by a light leaning wheel grader drawn by a 10 h.p. caterpillar tractor. It would appear from the census taken of the motor traffic around Suva that it is approaching saturation point and that a great increase in the number of vehicles using the roads of the district in the future is unlikely. A slight increase is observable in other centres but not to the same extent as in former years.

During the year a concrete and steel bridge 128 feet long and 13 feet wide was built across the Nosinu River on the Suva Rewa Road. This is a permanent structure of local design which embodies the advantages of moderate first cost, adequate strength, and small maintenance cost.

The only Loan works of any magnitude carried out during the year were in the Eastern District. These included (*a*) the construction of the Wakaya lighthouse, (*b*) the making of 3 miles of road at Makogai, and the provision of a wharf, an impounding dam, and a reservoir at the same island, (*c*) the building of a wharf at Nakama, Savu Savu; and (*d*) the provision of hospitals at Ra, Taveuni, and Labasa.

The Wakaya lighthouse situated on the Wakaya reef three miles from the island of Wakaya is of reinforced concrete, rising to a height of 70½ feet above the reef level. This difficult piece of work was completed in about seven months.

The roads of the Colony comprise a total length of 2,074¼ miles made up of 350 miles of metalled, and 128¾ miles of unmetalled roads, and 1,595½ miles of bridle tracks.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The total estimated population at the end of December, 1930, was 182,576, including Fijians 92,189, Indians 57,117, and Europeans 5,078. The total death-rate per thousand was 22.19 as against 17.60 in 1929, an increase of 4.59. The Fijian death-rate was 31.24, an increase of 6.58 over the previous year. The mortality rate of the Indian population was 12.30 showing an increase of 3.24. The birth-rate for the Colony was 35.49, an increase of 2.70 over the year 1929.

The most important epidemic that occurred during the year was that of dengue fever. This epidemic was particularly violent and widespread, over sixty per cent. of the population being affected. There was no discrimination of race; Europeans, Natives, and Indians suffered equally. Fortunately there were no deaths directly attributable to this disease, but labour was severely handicapped by such a widespread epidemic. This epidemic commenced in January and lasted until June. Strong anti-mosquito measures were taken by the Medical Department to combat this far reaching and debilitating disease. A general cleaning up, clearing away of bush, filling in of undrained holes, cementing of holes in trees, and oiling of water was carried out during the epidemic.

The dysentery epidemic which started in the Rewa District in 1929, continued in 1930 until the middle of the year when it gradually subsided with occasional sporadic cases. The mortality rate was particularly high and accounts for the increase in the death-rate over the previous year. This widespread epidemic which particularly affected the whole Colony was of the Shiga type of dysentery, possibly a particular strain of the disease against which there was little or no immunity. The treatment of this disease by serum was found to be very efficacious in early cases.

The Infant Welfare Campaign among the Fijian children is being steadily advanced and the results are most promising and satisfactory. There are now six trained European Nurses, eleven trained Native Nurses, and a Lady Doctor.

The Yaws and Ringworm Campaign was continued during the year—55 per cent. of the expenses being borne by the Fiji Government and 45 per cent. by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Medical Staff of the Colony consists of 19 Medical Officers, who are under the direct control of the Chief Medical Officer. There is one Indian Medical Officer who is stationed at Nadi, one of the most populous Indian settlements in the Colony. There is a Government Bacteriologist stationed at Suva, and a Medical Officer of Health who is responsible for quarantine and sanitation. The last named has under his jurisdiction two European Sanitary Inspectors, also a trained Fijian Sanitary Inspector, and an Indian in training. The Municipal Authority of Suva also employs two European Sanitary Inspectors.

The control of health matters in the country is in the hands of 14 District Medical Officers, and 50 Native Medical Practitioners, and four Indian Medical Practitioners. There are also two European Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom is detailed for an Ankylostomiasis Campaign, and in addition there are five Indian Sanitary Inspectors. The provision of hospitals throughout the

Colony is very complete and thorough. The following centres have general hospitals :—Levuka, Lautoka, Nadi, and Ra. There is an Indian women's hospital at Ba which is conducted by the Methodist Mission and subsidized by the Government, which also subsidizes cottage hospitals for Europeans at Ba and Taveuni. The main hospital in the Colony is the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. This is situated in Suva and has 113 beds. The Medical and Nursing Staffs consist of a Medical Superintendent and an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron and four trained Sisters, and twelve European Probationer Nurses. In addition there are twenty-four Native Nurses in training.

The Central Medical School is an enlargement of the old Native Medical School, and is situated in the Colonial War Memorial Hospital grounds. It consists of lecture rooms, museum, laboratory, and anatomical department. The students' dormitory is situated close to the School and has accommodation for forty students. The sum of £8,000 has been received from the Rockefeller Foundation for the erection and maintenance of the School. The teaching staff consists of a whole-time tutor, and six lecturers and demonstrators. The following students registered at the School during the year 1930 :—19 Fijians, 3 Solomon Islanders, 1 Indian, 2 from the New Hebrides, 3 from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, 4 Tongans, 2 Cook Islanders, and 4 Samoans. It will thus be seen that the Central Medical School receives medical students from practically the whole of the Western Pacific Group of Islands.

The Central Leper Hospital, a most modern and up-to-date institution, is situated on the island of Makogai. Cases of leprosy irrespective of race are compulsorily segregated in this Hospital, which also receives lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands. During the year 445.86 units were treated in the Hospital. The staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, Assistant Medical Superintendent, 13 European, and 9 Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The first school in Fiji was established in 1835 by the Methodist Mission and for many years facilities for education were provided by missionary societies of which the Methodist Mission and the Roman Catholic Mission were the most active.

At the present time, in addition to Government, the following bodies are actively engaged in education :—Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian organizations.

Prior to 1916, no systematic effort had been made by Government to control or improve education. An Education Department was constituted in that year and the systems of grants-in-aid and of inspection of approved schools were inaugurated. The Municipal schools for Europeans in Suva and Levuka, the Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians at Nasinu near Suva, and the Lau Provincial School for Fijians were brought under the control of the Department. Five more provincial boarding schools for Fijians were approved and completed by 1925.

The first Government Indian school was established in 1919.

In accordance with a recommendation of the Education Committee of 1926, an Education Ordinance was passed in 1929 making wider provision for the control of all schools and teachers.

All regulations and courses of instruction were re-cast as well as the examination courses prescribed for non-European teachers.

A Government teachers' training school was established for Fijian and Indian students in 1929, and, in 1930, facilities for the secondary education of Indian boys were provided. Two Indian assisted schools were taken over by Government and a new Government Indian girls' school was established.

An Indian Education Rating Ordinance has been passed to enable a proportion of the cost of education of Indians to be recovered from rates to be levied in districts proclaimed as education rating districts by the Governor-in-Council.

Supervision of the work of Fijian and Indian assisted schools was carried out by the Inspector of Fijian schools and by the Inspector of Indian schools. The Government European schools were inspected by the Chief Inspector of New Zealand schools.

The educational facilities now provided for European pupils in Fiji are as follows :—

Under a scheme of co-operation existing between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji, the Colony is enabled to obtain trained teachers for the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools in Suva, and for the Public School in Levuka. The syllabus of instruction is that of the New Zealand public schools modified in details to suit local requirements, and is designed to meet the requirements of examination up to the standard of the New Zealand University Entrance Examination. These three schools have well equipped hostels, the boarding fees in Suva being £50 and in Levuka £30 per annum. The tuition fees for non-ratepayers are £2 2s. per annum for primary pupils, and £7 10s. for secondary pupils.

In addition, the Roman Catholic Orders of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny and of the Marist Brothers provide a sound education up to a secondary standard.

Small schools with European teachers have been established at five country centres in which children are given a primary education. Children living in isolated places may be enrolled in the correspondence classes conducted by the Education Department.

As regards the education of Fijians, practically every child has facilities for learning to read and to write the Fijian language. The number of trained teachers is steadily increasing and the standard and efficiency of the schools is being improved. Smaller schools are being closed and the children taught in grouped schools. Selected pupils can proceed from these schools to Queen Victoria School or Government Provincial Schools or to central Mission Schools where English is taught and vocational training is stressed. From there, students may qualify by competitive examination for entrance to the two Teacher Training Schools or to the Central Medical School.

As regards Indian education, there were, in 1930, five Government primary schools as well as sixty-two other schools established by Missions and private enterprise to which Indians were admitted. Forty-four of these schools were aided by Government grants. Expansion in these schools is dependent on the number of trained Indian teachers available. The quality of the instruction in the assisted schools has improved considerably. The brighter pupils from these schools may now obtain a further education in the Secondary Department at Natabua, or may qualify for entrance to either of the two Teacher Training Schools or to the Central Medical School.

At the end of 1930, there were 213 Government and assisted schools of which 14 were for Europeans and children of partly European descent, 153 for Fijians, 44 for Indians, one for Chinese, and one for Melanesians. The average roll was 14,695, of which 801 were Europeans or of European descent, 10,375 were Fijians and others, and 3,519 Indians. The staffs consist of 92 European, 166 Fijian, and 78 Indian teachers.

The annual expenditure on education, which amounted to about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, increased to £31,584 in 1926, £34,027 in 1927, £36,089 in 1928, £40,610 in 1929, and £46,838 in 1930.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered : Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate); New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI, Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations; New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations; London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations; Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

Increased activity is shown in the Boy Scouts' movement and although only a 3 per cent. increase in number occurred, this was more than compensated for by an improvement in efficiency.

A Girl Guides Association has also been formed.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1930 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freeholds	1,590	531,656	—	—	531,656	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	404	15,364	112	2,661	18,025	—
Leases of Native Land	6,789	292,478	730	11,447	303,925	—
		Total...	...	...	853,606	4,523,620

Six hundred and forty-six applications for leases of native lands aggregating 24,363 acres were received during the year. Of these 281 applications for 5,009 acres were approved and 234 applications for 17,169 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 85 per cent. of the total. Sixty-five applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 4,498 acres. Of these, thirty-two applications for 2,938 acres were approved, and thirty-one for 1,495 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

Survey.

The survey staff of the Lands Department consists of six officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1930 the field staff were employed almost wholly on investigations and miscellaneous surveys including surveys of native leases, and comparatively little main traverse work was possible. Six surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native and Crown lands.

Five hundred and seventeen plans of surveys by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and three native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission, in 1930, enquired into certain encumbrances in the Province of Cakaudrove, and also operated in the Province of Tailevu (North), and in Malolo and Vatulele. The survey staff attached to the Commission comprises eleven surveyors and four supernumerary officers.

Survey operations were carried out in the Provinces of Colo East, Colo West, Nadi, Naitasiri, Rewa, Tailevu North, Macuata, and Bua.

XI.—LABOUR.

FIJIAN.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of a land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is, in fact, a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependants from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes: agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers, the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4s. a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small, but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended. They are mostly employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boat-builders vary from 7s. to 12s. a day, according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependants. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

INDIAN.

There has been little change in the conditions of labour and wages described in the last two reports. Indian contract labour is chiefly employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company during the crushing season. The Company employs approximately 3,000 labourers throughout the year, the number rising when the mills are working to 4,000.

The family earnings of Indians are supplemented by the produce of small-holdings or allotments. Except in the sugar area depression in the copra industry has resulted in some slackening in the demand for labour, and symptoms of unemployment were evinced at one time after the arrival of a fresh batch of Punjabi immigrants. Fortunately food prices have been easy, and it became possible to reduce the standard wage in Suva to 2s. 6d. a day. In country districts wages have remained at 2s. to 2s. 6d. Wages are apt to vary markedly with the price of foodstuffs in the locality. In some plantation areas where there are few facilities for growing rice, and food has to be imported, wages are necessarily high. The value of a local supply of "paddy" which labourers can store for consumption as easing the local labour situation is not everywhere recognized.

There has been no change in the wages system of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. Regular employees enjoy housing and medical attendance and grazing facilities and a concession rate on purchases from Company's stores, worth about 1s. 4d. a week to the single man and more to families. The wages for ordinary field work remain at 1s. 8d. a day with a bonus for a full week's work and opportunities for overtime. Harvest wages are by piece. Skilled agricultural labourers earn up to 17s. a week of 5½ days with a bonus for a full week's work. Mill wages range from 10s to 21s. a week, with higher rates for special employment. Wages during the crushing season remained at last year's level.

For domestic servants, wages range from £3 a month for garden hands to £5 to £6 for indoor servants. Car drivers earn £8 a month and upwards.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labourers skilled and unskilled employed in 1930 under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was about 1,250. Of these 700 were employed in the Suva District, and 550 in the various country districts. The nationalities of the labourers were as under :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Indians.*	*Fijians.*	*Others.*
68	105	643	453	32

Of the total more than half are road labourers, principally Indians and Fijians. Indians predominate in this class of work, but the supply of Indian labourers fluctuates with the seasons and is more plentiful for road work, etc., directly after the crops have been planted and again directly after they are harvested.

The general rate of wages in the Suva District is 3s. per day of eight hours, and 2s. 6d. in the country. A higher rate is paid in the districts of Taveuni and Lomaiviti, due to the higher cost of living and the shortage of labour in these districts. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane, and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, motor mechanics, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, the rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. a day, according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths and fitters.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen :—

Carpenters and Joiners.—3s. 6d. to 20s. per day depending on the degree of skill.

Boat-builders.—8s. to 20s. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boatsheds are paid from 3s. 9d. to 8s. per day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.).—Up to 20s. per day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes)—5s. rising to £2 5s. per week.

Painters (usually Indians).—3s. 6d. per day. Leaders up to 9s. per day.

Lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans).—15s. to 18s. per day. The average wage is about £4 15s. per week.

Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans).—£18 to £25 per month. Road Gang Sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. up to £10 8s. per month. Average wage £7 per month.

During the year under review the labour supply was well maintained.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The administration of native affairs is conducted under the provisions of the Native Regulations, and through a system of Native Councils which gives to the Fijian a large share of self-government on lines which harmonize with tradition and custom. The District Councils, which are purely native Councils under the direction of the Chief of the District, have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the health, good government, and prosperity of their respective districts, and of electing representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils, which are under the direction of the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor, have similar powers with regard to their respective Provinces and have also the power of electing representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council met in Suva this year. It was opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 18th November. The Secretary for Native Affairs presided throughout the Session. There were many discussions of interest and several resolutions were passed affecting the welfare of the Fijian population, including a resolution to provide a Child Welfare Home for the treatment of ill-nourished children. The Council, which meets every two years, advises the Governor on any matter pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijians and also nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. It provides a necessary link between the natives and the Government and ensures an adequate representation of the wishes and opinions of the natives throughout the Colony.

Offences against the provisions of the Native Regulations are tried by specially constituted Courts. Minor infringements are dealt with by Native Stipendiary Magistrates in District Courts, from which appeal lies to the European Magistrate of the District. Graver offences are dealt with in the Provincial Courts, in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. Appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In addition to broadening the basis of representation of native opinion, the Native Regulations make provision for the better care of women and children and of sick persons; for the better control of unmarried girls and of women living in industrial centres; for the prohibition of irregular unions; for the more effective registration of births and deaths; and for the determination of the legitimacy of children born in wedlock. Provision is also made to ensure the safeguarding of funds collected for purposes of common benefit or private enterprise; to prohibit the unauthorized collection of money by promises of future gain; to secure a money payment in lieu of communal services from men absent from their villages for more than a year; to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling; and to ensure the maintenance of the wives and families of men absent from their villages. The Regulations are based upon native custom and are in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community.

The general health of the natives is under the care of the Medical Service. Four general hospitals and fifteen provincial hospitals are in operation. The Government Medical staff includes 18 European Medical Officers and 60 Native Medical Practitioners. In addition there is a large staff of trained nurses in the general hospital and 50 Native Obstetric Nurses distributed throughout the country districts. Native Medical Practitioners are trained in the Central Medical School attached to the War Memorial Hospital, Suva. This school accommodates 40 students of whom 20 are Fijians. A school is also maintained in conjunction with the hospital for the training of 24 Native Obstetric Nurses each year. The total sum expended on medical services last year was £75,293. To this sum the natives, through their Provincial Funds, contributed £4,700. In return for their contribution the natives receive free medical and surgical treatment at all hospitals and at the hands of all European Medical Officers, Native Medical Practitioners, and Native Obstetric Nurses. The majority of the Native Medical Practitioners are stationed in the country districts and are not attached to hospitals. These men travel throughout the districts, attending to the sick in their own homes and giving advice and direction in sanitary matters in general. The Native Obstetric Nurses attend confinements either at the provincial hospitals or in the native villages and give practical instruction to the mothers in the care of infants. Apart from general medical treatment a great amount of work has been done in reducing the incidence of particular diseases and in providing protection against infection. Widespread inoculation against typhoid fever has also been carried out and this disease is not now regarded as a serious menace to the natives. The campaign for the treatment of ankylostomiasis has been conducted under the direction of Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation and considerably over 22,000 cases treated. This disease is no longer a serious cause of ill health in any district in the Colony. Special attention has been paid to the treatment of yaws and ringworm and the incidence of these diseases has been considerably reduced throughout the Colony. During the early part of the year there was an epidemic of dysentery of a severe type which extended to almost every district in the Colony and continued until the month of April. Owing largely to this cause the death-rate of 31.24 per thousand showed an increase over 1929 of 6.58. The birth-rate was 36.43 against 31.91 per thousand in 1929, and the total increase of the population 478 against 683 in 1929. There were 744 marriages amongst natives during the year. The total native population at the end of 1930 was estimated at 92,189.

Child Welfare Work amongst the natives which was begun in 1927 is now in operation, under the personal direction of fully qualified European Nurses, assisted by Native Obstetric Nurses in eight provinces of the Colony and, in the native towns around Suva and Nausori, under the voluntary supervision of Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Consul. This work is organized on the most practical lines designed to reach the maximum number of women and to teach them methods of mothercraft which they are capable of adopting and carrying out successfully. The general method of procedure is for the European Nurse to make regular visits to each town in her Province, to inspect the women and children and the homes in which they live, to treat minor ailments, skin diseases, etc., and to give instruction to the women on all matters relating to child-birth and the care of children and the home. Special attention is paid to pregnant women who receive advice during their pregnancy and the services of Obstetric Nurses during their confinement. Infants are weighed and a record of their weights kept so that necessary treatment can be given in all cases where progress is unsatisfactory. In each village a committee of women is appointed and provided with a supply of medicines for treating simple ailments. The members of the Committee hold regular inspections of the children and see that they are properly cared for and receive medical attention when necessary. They also report to the European Nurse or nearest Medical Officer any cases of serious illness.

The work is now being taken up, in Provinces where it has not yet been possible to station a European Nurse, by the natives themselves, under the direction of the local Native Medical Practitioner and Native Nurses.

The immediate effect of this work is an undoubted improvement in the general health of the women and children and in the cleanliness of their homes and a freedom from minor ills which they have not previously enjoyed. The less obvious but equally important effects are the creation in the women of a desire to improve, of their volition, the conditions under which they live and bring up their children, and the raising of the physical standard of the race by providing the rising generation with comparative freedom from disease during the critical period of childhood. The full effects of this work will not be felt for many years to come but the keen interest displayed by the women and their efforts to profit by the assistance and instruction given to them indicates that it will be of immense benefit to the race. The success which has so far attended this work is due in a very large measure to the devoted work of the European nurses engaged therein. In many districts this work necessitates almost constant travelling by the nurses either on horseback or on foot through difficult country, and under most trying conditions. The Colony is singularly fortunate in securing the services of nurses who, imbued with a spirit of self sacrifice, are willing to undertake this arduous work for the benefit of the natives.

Allied to Child Welfare Work proper, is the work of the Travelling Medical Officer. The duties of this officer are to supervise the work of the Native Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses and to endeavour to bring about improvement in the sanitary conditions of native villages.

Under the Native Regulations, Fijian children are required to attend school up to the age of fourteen years. No restrictions are placed upon the parents' choice of a school, which is only limited by geographical conditions and the capacity of the schools available. As the elementary education of the natives remains largely in the hands of the several religious bodies established in the Colony, the parents' choice generally falls upon a school conducted by the denomination to which they belong. In most native villages the boys and girls are taught the rudiments of education by native teachers most of whom have received some training at the central Mission schools. Where conditions permit, several villages join together in the establishment of a joint school, in some of which certificated teachers are employed. At many of the Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by a European missionary or priest assisted by Mission sisters and native teachers. From these schools many of the pupils continue their education at the central schools and training colleges operated by the Missions whose curricula include branches of technical education. A limited number of Fijian youths are trained in modern methods of agriculture at the Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso. A number of the older native girls receive education and training in domestic science at the Methodist Mission Girls' School at Matavelo.

In addition to the Mission schools there are in some Provinces boarding schools controlled by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko and supported by native funds. There are also six Joint Provincial schools under direct Government control in which selected pupils from all the Provinces receive a good primary education. These schools are under the direct control of fully qualified European headmasters who are assisted by a staff of trained native teachers and manual instructors. An annual contribution is made from native funds towards the maintenance of these schools. Higher education is provided for selected pupils from the Provincial and Mission schools at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, Nasinu. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising youths outside the Colony, and four Fijians attended Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year. A native scholarship fund has been established. Assistance is given by the Government to a number of primary and vernacular schools by a system of money grants which vary in amount according to the standard of education provided in the schools to which the grants are made.

The whole system of native education, including the extent to which additional revenue should be raised for the extension of educational facilities, is receiving the Government's attention. In all matters relating to the education of the natives the Missions have always played an important part and it is felt that progress can most effectively be made by assisting the Missions to improve their present organizations. For this purpose substantial annual grants are made in aid of Davuilevu School, which is used as a training school for native teachers, and of Navuso Agricultural School. A sum of about £9,668 has also been made available for grants in aid of the maintenance of native schools. A teachers' training school was established at Lautoka early in 1929 and there are now 18 Fijian boys in training there. This provides the most essential step towards the placing of native education upon a sound basis. The extension at the same time of technical and agricultural instruction will provide the natives with an education which will be of practical value to them in their endeavours to develop the natural resources of their lands and to raise their standard of living.

The Fijians remain essentially an agricultural people dependent for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their tribal lands. Although a considerable number of the younger men go to work on sugar or coconut estates they almost invariably return to the cultivation of their lands when the object for which they worked has been attained. Their agricultural activities are directed primarily to the planting of crops for their own food supplies. These crops consist chiefly of yams, dalo, tapioca, sweet potatoes, plantains, and bread-fruit. They are skilled agriculturists and although they generally use but the simplest instruments their planting operations are very successful.

Large areas of coconut groves are owned by the natives throughout the Colony. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra. A considerable proportion of the copra exported from the Colony is made by the natives. The improvement in the care of established coconut plantations and in the planting of new areas has been maintained. In Vitilevu alone over 4,600 acres have been planted in coconuts by the natives.

In the chief productive areas European Coconut Inspectors appointed by the Government have carried out a thorough and systematic campaign for the clearing up and thinning out of old coconut groves, and have personally supervised the selection and planting of new areas and the manufacture of copra. The effects of this work are to reduce the incidence of disease affecting the coconut palms, to increase the yield of coconuts, and to improve the quality of copra. These results besides being of direct permanent benefit to the native owners serve as a practical demonstration of the utility of adopting better methods of cultivation. The improvement in the health of the coconuts in Vitilevu and adjacent islands consequent upon the effective control of the Levuana moth has been maintained and large areas of coconuts which were formerly non-productive are now bearing well.

The restored confidence in the value of coconut palms has led to the planting of new areas by the natives. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease aided by the work of the Coconut Inspectors will result in material increase in the prosperity of a very large section of the Fijians.

The major portion of the bananas exported from the Colony is grown by Fijians. Only fruit of first class quality is exported, and in the maintenance of this quality the natives are assisted by European Inspectors appointed by the Government. These Inspectors supervise the weeding out and destruction of diseased plants and the planting of new areas with healthy plants. They advise the natives in the selection of suitable soils, proper methods of drainage and cultivation, and in the handling of fruit. The fruit is sold by the natives to the exporters either at their plantations or at Government packing stations.

The system of granting licences to banana buyers instituted in 1928 has worked well. This system provides minimum prices for the purchase of bananas, the prices, which are fixed from time to time by a Board appointed by the Governor, varying according to the time of the year. It also ensures a steady market throughout the year for all good quality fruit grown by the natives in the areas over which licences are granted. The provision of known minimum prices and of an assured market should effect an increase in the large income annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

The cultivation of sugar cane, which is mainly in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of Indian planters, is gradually being adopted by Fijians. The quantity of sugar cane grown by the natives is steadily increasing. Several areas of land have been thrown open by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for Fijian cultivation, and in these centres groups of tenant farmers have been settled. The scheme, so far, has been entirely successful. As the cultivation of sugar cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely untried by the natives, the successful adoption of their use augurs well for the development of more scientific methods of agriculture amongst the Fijians.

As the result of experiments conducted at the Government cotton farm at Sigatoka a variety of cotton has been produced which appears to be admirably suited to local conditions. This variety is more hardy and has a much heavier yield than the Sea Island cotton which has been grown during the past few years. As it can be used more extensively than the Sea Island variety there is likely to be a steadier sale for it in the world's markets. It is as yet too early to gauge the extent to which this cotton can profitably be grown but it is hoped that it will in the near future provide the Fijians, more especially in the inland districts where difficulties of transport preclude the cultivation of heavier crops, with a profitable industry admirably suited to their social system. Towards the end of 1929 provision was made for the appointment of an agricultural instructor to be under the control of the Secretary for Native Affairs. This Instructor deals direct with the adult Fijians in their villages and by practical demonstration and instruction teaches them to adopt more advanced methods of agriculture. He also assists them in the selection of crops to be grown, and in the cultivation, harvesting, and marketing of these crops. By utilizing the inherited aptitude of the Fijians for communal work he endeavours to teach them co-operative methods of production and marketing, thus eliminating much of the wastage which now attends the haphazard individual efforts to grow crops for profit. The principles on which the Instructor works aim at the establishment of individual planting hand in hand with co-operative measures for the reduction of cost of production, and the agricultural education of the adult Fijians in order that they may pass on the knowledge they acquire to the younger generation and thus secure the most rapid and widespread adoption of improved methods of agriculture. The system of adult education carried out by the Instructor ensures that the individual planter reaps the reward for his labours and, in addition to increasing his material prosperity, gains an added interest in life.

Apart from their agricultural pursuits many of the better educated Fijians occupy administrative and clerical positions in the Government Service. Some have qualified as Native Medical Practitioners and others as Native Stipendiary Magistrates. Others are employed as clerks and shop assistants in several of the larger business houses. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as masters, engineers, or seamen on inter-insular vessels or as carpenters and artisans. There is abundant evidence of an increasing desire among the younger Fijians to acquire education and training in order to fit themselves to take an active part in all branches of industry in the Colony. The success which has so far attended their efforts holds out encouraging hopes for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics.

The vital statistics given elsewhere show an increase in 1930 of 1,986 in the Indian population, an increase greater by approximately 100 than the increase recorded in the previous year. The birth-rate has risen from 34.86 to 36.02 and the death-rate from 9.06 to 12.30. The increase in the death-rate is mainly due to an increase in infant mortality from 251 to 481 and is to be attributed to the outbreak of bacillary dysentery. The number of immigrants has remained the same and emigrants have increased from 774 to 799, the net increase to the population from these movements being about 200. The Indian population is now estimated at 75,117 an increase of 14,483 since the last census of 1921.

Owing to the decision not to undertake a census in 1931, figures showing the sex distribution of the Indian community can only be estimated but at the time of the 1921 census the Indian male population between the ages of 20 and 40 was almost double that of the female. The proportion was more equal in the class which has since reached or is reaching a marriageable age and among the infant population, but it must clearly be some time before the population can reach a normal figure for all classes.

The number of marriages registered or legalized rose from 878 in 1929 to 1,926 in 1930. In the two years, therefore, the total number of Indian marriages legalized has been 2,804. The normal registrations prior to the amendment of the Marriage Ordinance were in the neighbourhood of 200 to 250 a year. The point is of some importance as showing that the Colony seems to have found at any rate a partial solution of a problem which has been a source of difficulty elsewhere. A satisfactory marriage system must conduce powerfully to the stabilizing of the community as a permanent element in the population of the Colony.

The Indian population is mainly centred in the sugar-producing tracts, and in Suva and its suburbs. Allowing for increase and movements since the census of 1921, approximate numbers in each district are:—Macuata, 10,000; Ba, 13,000; Nadi and Rewa, 11,000 each; Lautoka, 7,000; Nadroga and Ra, 3,000 to 4,000 each; Suva and suburbs 8,000; other places, 7,000.

Indian Provinces of Origin.

As no census will be held this year, no completely accurate revision will be possible of the information on this subject available in the census report for 1921. A request has, however, been received for up-to-date information, and it will perhaps be as well to attempt in this report an estimated revision of the figures.

The gross estimated increase in the Indian population since 1921 is 14,493, but before estimating the probable numbers which can claim origin from the two major provinces of recruitment, namely, the United Provinces and Madras, it is necessary to take into account the rapid increase in the number of Punjabi cultivators and labourers, and Bombay traders (including those from the Indian States of the Bombay Presidency). The figures for these in 1921 were 449 and 324 respectively, but the increase has been rapid of late years and it would probably be safe to estimate that there are now not far short of 2,000 Punjabis and perhaps 1,200 Bombay traders in the Colony. The Punjabis are mainly Sikhs from the Eastern Districts of the Province and nearly all males who have come to seek their fortunes. There is more travelling to and fro between Fiji and India in the case of the Bombay traders and a slightly larger proportion of females.

The net increase in the population after making allowance for these two classes may perhaps be put at 12,000. In 1921 (including those from the United Provinces with those wrongly shown as from the North West Provinces and making some allowance for those unclassified) 60 per cent. of those born in India were returned as coming from the United Provinces and 30 per cent. from Madras. Since 1921, 4,435 Madrassis have been repatriated as against 6,916 from other parts of India. The proportion therefore of Madrassis in the present population has probably decreased and that of persons originating in the United Provinces has correspondingly increased. It would perhaps be safe to take the present percentages at 63 and 27. This would give the total population of United Provinces origin at present in Fiji as about 45,000 and of Madras origin 20,000.

The figures are, of course, mere rough estimates. They do not take into account the fact that considerable numbers of the Fiji-born Indians are of mixed origin. As a class the Madrassis have probably taken to occupations other than agriculture to a lesser degree than others. Some of the best and most industrious sugar farmers are Madrassis and at the Agricultural Shows the final heat of the ploughing competitions is as a rule a duel between the Madrassi and Punjabi champions.

Economic.

In spite of the attractions of other pursuits, agriculture still remains the main occupation of the bulk of the Indian population. With the exception of the Bombay traders, few of those engaged in other business are without family connexions with the land. Probably more than two-thirds of the Indian population derive their livelihood from the sugar industry. The important results of the Colonial Sugar Company's farm settlement scheme in stabilizing the Indian population on the land have been described in previous reports, and all who are acquainted with the workings of this scheme will endorse the tribute paid in last year's report to the success with which it has been carried out and to its educative effect. The area held by Company's tenants has risen from 24,500 acres in 1927 to 31,000 in 1930. Outside suppliers of cane have increased their area from 29,000 to 32,000 acres, leaving only 15,000 acres now under direct cultivation by the Company. The areas cultivated by the Company are either on the low flats, where control of drainage and cultivation on a large scale is essential, or in selected districts where cane is grown for experimental purposes. Of the whole crop, Indian farmers grow 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. and supplied, in 1929, 516,000 tons of cane worth nearly £400,000 on the trucks. Figures for 1930 are not available but in spite of the dry season the value of the cane supplied has been maintained.

Outside the sugar tracts the crops mainly grown by Indians are rice, cotton, dhall and maize, with smaller areas under other crops such as tobacco, beans, coriander seed, chillies, peanuts and other root crops, pineapples, and yagona. The better class of Indian farmer shows enterprise in making every possible use of his land and the main weekly markets contain a surprising variety of minor agricultural products. Rice, the main cereal food of the Colony, is the main product other than sugar. Consumption is in the neighbourhood of 10,000 tons, of which about 1,500 tons is still imported. The rice harvest is subject to considerable fluctuations, but the systematic efforts of the Agricultural Department to improve the local crop should result in a progressively improved output. There is undoubtedly room for improvement in cultural practice, and in the varieties grown. Small Indian-owned rice mills are increasing in number, but the great bulk of the produce is stored by the growers, or by those who buy from them in the husk, and is hand milled. Recent weather vicissitudes have demonstrated that this practice is not without its advantages, as the " paddy " thus stored is to a large extent immune from damage by water.

The cotton industry is dealt with elsewhere in this report. This crop is also at present liable to marked fluctuations, but as a possible alternative to sugar in the event of a serious setback to the local sugar industry it is of importance.

That maize is both popular with Indian farmers and grows well in the Colony is clear. It is possible that important results may ensue from efforts now being made to popularise maize flour for human consumption. Mixed with imported " sharps " for chapatties it is already proving acceptable. Increased production and consumption will both cheapen food supplies and keep money in the Colony. If an export trade can be developed, Indian farmers will be still further benefited.

Indian farmers are also likely to benefit from a development of the pineapple industry. The development of this industry and of other minor industries is described elsewhere in the report. In view of the gloomy outlook at the present time in the sugar industry minor agricultural industries are of essential importance to the Indian farming community as fostering variety of resource and possible alternatives.

It is difficult to compare figures of those engaged in other business owing to differences in method in compiling returns, but the figures for 1930 show 1,004 Indian storekeepers, including 47 holders of Wholesale Licences. There were, in 1929, 784 individual holders of drivers' licences for public motor vehicles and 273 for private vehicles. The corresponding figures for 1930 were 724 and 435. 377 cars and 133 motor lorries were Indian owned. The driving of motor transport for hire is largely an Indian monopoly. The number of passenger lorries on the main roads is increasing rapidly.

During His Excellency's tour in November a point of importance to the economic condition of the Indian population was raised in addresses presented to him, namely, the need of greater protection of the Indian farming community against the exactions of money-lenders and their own tendency to improvident borrowing. The matter is now under consideration. A bill for the regulation of money lending is being prepared and the question of introducing the co-operative credit system is being examined. Progress over this matter may be slow, but there can be little doubt that at present one of the greatest handicaps under which the small Indian farmer labours is his lack of ability to co-operate effectively with his neighbours for credit purposes or for purposes of production, marketing, and providing means of access to markets. The defect is largely due to the heterogeneous character of the population and the marked individualism they have developed since emancipation from indenture. That Fiji with its fertile flats and rich well-watered valleys is admirably suited for the development of a thriving class of yeoman farmer seems undoubted. But for successful development in this direction the Colony will have to follow the example of other countries with similar conditions and work out its own system of co-operation if real prosperity is to be attained. Increased general prosperity will mean increased scope for business ability and enterprise and decreased risk of exploitation of the primary producer.

Social.

Attention has already been drawn to the great progress made in regularizing conditions of family life and steps are now being taken to obviate risk of any retrograde tendency in the progress being made towards sex parity by the control of male immigration from India.

With the redrafting of the Immigration Ordinance occasion was taken to widen the powers of interference in cases where parents or guardians have proved themselves unfit to look after minor children. This should facilitate the removal of the remaining vestiges of the social evils referred to in last year's report.

General progress in education and in other directions has resulted in increased attention being paid to the tenets and observances of the different religions professed. This movement has been fostered by the advent of a certain number of preachers and the missionaries from India. But some time must elapse before religious revivalism can adapt itself to conditions in the Colony.

At present the Indian community is not free from symptoms of sectional friction, although this has for the most part been confined to one or two localities. Intolerant and disruptive tendencies have been at work, accompanied by attempts to enforce compliance with restrictions by social boycott and the local equivalent of caste fines. Controversy over such matters has at times been acrimonious and has led in a few cases to violence. It has involved both the question of social tolerance and that of interpretation of the Hindu scriptures as the rival sects have adopted opposing views on the social question. Over a large part of the Colony the general good sense of the different sections has prevented religious revivalism tending towards social disruption.

The three seats in the Legislative Council for Indian members are still vacant. No further applications for the issue of writs of election have been received, but apart from this political question co-operation with the administration has been cordial.

Indians are now members of local road boards and sanitary authorities. Steps are being taken to appoint educational committees for Indian districts on which a number of Indians will probably be appointed.

There are Indian representatives on the Board of Education and the Board of Visitors to the Public Lunatic Asylum.

Education.

Educational progress is dealt with in another section of this report. The year has been marked by the establishment of two Government schools for Indian boys and one for girls and the passing of the Indian Education Rating Ordinance, under which it will be possible for funds to be raised by a rate summarily assessed on a graduated scale to provide the local share of the cost of the schools in an education rating district. The Teachers' Training School and the Secondary class attached to it, are attracting a good type of Indian youth. The course for both classes is a practical one and a satisfactory start has been made in training the students to keep in close touch with the practical conditions of their environment. An intermediate school as a link between the primary schools and this secondary class is projected. The number of Government schools that can be established is limited by financial considerations. Apart from the Government schools and those managed by societies and associations it is probable that progress will largely take the form of the establishment of rural schools managed by the people of the locality and assisted from public funds. Progress has been made in the task of placing controlling bodies on a firmer footing, and the School Journal recently started by the Inspector of Indian Schools should have an important effect in co-ordinating educational activities among Indians. It is significant that a number of Indian schools have now well organized troops of Boy Scouts, which take a high place in scout competitions. An Indian scout has recently received the honour of being appointed " King's Scout."

There are also signs of satisfactory development of female education. In the Suva area the Arya Samaj, which has several well managed schools in the Colony, has established a girls' school. The Muslim community have another well conducted school, and the recently established Government girls' school is already full. Interest in the Girl Guide movement is developing. A well turned out detachment of Indian Girl Guides, under the Indian headmistress of the Arya Samaj Patshala Viseisei, formed part of the Guard of Honour to welcome His Excellency at Lautoka. These are, it is to be hoped, symptoms of future developments. Nothing can conduce to the peaceful and stable settlement of the Indian community in the Colony better than steady and orderly progress in the education of the rising generation of girls as managers of households.

Immigration and Repatriation.

The steamship *Sutlej* arrived in Suva on 28th February with 829 persons on board.

The immigrants included 360 Punjabis and 343 Bombay traders mostly from Gujerat, an increase of about 100 in the latter class and a similar decrease in the case of the Punjabis. Of the immigrants 58 were women (27 from Bombay) and 82 children (49 from Bombay). Immigration from the Punjab continues to be almost entirely male. Family immigration is not uncommon among the Bombay trader class and there is considerable travelling to and from India. There are signs of the market for the services of this class being overstocked. In the case of Punjabis the continued influx of males has given cause for concern, both as checking the tendency towards rectifying male preponderance and also because of the difficulty of absorbing the immigrants in the present state of the industries of the Colony. Except in cases in which special sanction has been obtained the Government of India has been asked to limit passports and visas for the Colony to former residents of Fiji and to those coming out with their wives. So far few of the Punjabi immigrants have returned to India. As a general rule they make good farmers and give good value for their wages as labourers, but they spend little in the Colony and their savings go to their relatives in the Eastern Punjab.

There was a further fall in the demand for repatriation and the *Sutlej* though chartered for 850 statute adults actually sailed with only 451 persons entitled to free return passages on board. The deficiency was partly made good by the sale of 134 passages to others. Six passages were alloted by special authority. The total number embarked was 642, equal to 587½ statute adults.

Remittances of savings through the Government Emigration Agent amounted to an average of about £41 per adult repatriate. This is about the average of official remittances during the previous five years and according to the Calcutta Emigration Report very much higher than remittances taken back from other Colonies. The proportion of children returning to India fell considerably. Even among those who do exercise their right of return, family repatriation is decreasing and numbers leave their families behind and go back to India with every intention of returning to the Colony. The Madrassi repatriates numbered 306 out of the total of 642. The proportion of Madrassis now claiming repatriation is much in excess of their numerical proportion to the population. Family repatriation is commonest with this class. The Madrassi element in Fiji resembles the Punjabi in this respect that it retains for a long period its connexion with its home country and its ancestral lands. It is perhaps significant that some of the best and most enterprising farmers should be derived from these two classes.

The marked and rapid decline in the demand for repatriation was commented on last year. The number of persons repatriated with free return passages during the last five years has been :—

1926	1,180
1927	977
1928	924
1929	546
1930	502

In the latter half of the year under report only 298 claims for repatriation were registered and no signs were evinced of any urgent demand for return. In the circumstances it was decided not to charter a vessel at all during the current year. The slackness in the demand is the more remarkable, because under the Ordinance recently in force very large numbers of claims would have lapsed by the end of the year. This question of expiring claims had been under consideration for a considerable time. The problem has been met by the passing of Ordinance 24 of 1930, under which expiring rights have been extended temporarily, the Government reserving the right to cancel claims to a return passage at any time after giving sufficient notice to claimants to enable them to avail themselves of a return passage. This generous solution of a long-standing problem has been accepted by all with gratitude and without demur.

There would seem every possibility of the desire for repatriation, amongst most of those who can claim it, gradually fading as time goes on with beneficial results both to those concerned, and the general interests of the Colony.

Storms and Floods.

The storms of December, 1929, of which an account was given last year, were followed by another hurricane in November, 1930, which did considerable damage in the north-east corner of Vitilevu. Fortunately for the Indian farmers the storm came at a time when little damage to crops can occur. Numbers of Indian farmsteads were damaged, but the Indian hut takes less damage from a storm than the heavier Fijian house, and the family store of " paddy " suffers less than the more perishable Fijian foodstuffs.

Since the close of the year there have been further and more severe storms and floods accompanied by lamentable loss of life on river flats, and this report has had to be written amid the pre-occupations of further relief measures. An account of the damage done, and the measures taken to relieve distress will form part of the report for the current year. Long immunity from heavy floods has led to a false sense of security. It was fortunate that the floods of December, 1929, gave warning to one area of what might come, otherwise the loss of life and property would have been more severe. There are signs now of a movement among Indian farmers to vacate their low-lying settlements and move their homes on to higher ground.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The Meteorological Station at Suva is classified as a Normal Climatological Station of the Second Order of the International Classification. Observations are taken at least twice daily. The hours at which observations are taken are 8.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Local Standard Time. The observations taken during 1930 were complete in every respect as records were taken twice daily for every day in the year.

The Station is equipped with the following instruments :—

Mercurial Barometer, Kew pattern.

Thermometers (Eight) recording Dry Bulb, Wet Bulb, maxima, minima, ground (1 ft. and 4 ft.), maximum in the sun and minimum on the grass.

Kata Thermometer.

Rain Gauge (8 in. diameter).

Automatic Syphon Rain Gauge.

Large Barograph.

Hygrograph.
Dines' Pressure and Suction Tube Anemometer.
Sunshine Recorder.

These instruments have either National Physical Laboratory Certificates or have been tested by the Meteorological Office, London.

In addition to observations of the above instruments, eye observations are taken of the clouds, visibility, weather, etc., and a weather diary is kept in which each day's weather is described.

The year 1930 has been remarkable for the drought which extended from June to the end of the year. There were two hurricanes, one in January and one in November. On 11th and 12th January a small but severe cyclone passed over Makogai, Wakaya, and Ngau. The Master of the *Pioneer* reported as follows: "Anchored at Wakaya at 7.30 p.m., 11th, moderate E.N.E. wind; at 9 p.m. barometer rapidly fell from 29.68 to 29.39 and by 10 p.m. wind was E.N.E., force 11. This lasted for about ½ an hour. There was then a lull (almost calm) for 20 minutes when wind blew from W.N.W. hurricane force for 40 minutes, barometer then rapidly rose to 29.63. After this the wind remained moderate N.W. breeze all night."

Mr. J. F. Osborn of Ngau reported :—" Saturday, 11th, 9 p.m. barometer 29.75, S.W. breeze and rain. About 12.30 a.m. Sunday, barometer 29.61, wind E. 6, and by 1 a.m., 12th, it was hurricane force with barometer 29.57. At 2.30 a.m. there was a lull for about ½ an hour and then the wind came in from the West at hurricane force."

This hurricane was small in extent and was confined to the Lomaiviti Province and the island of Moala. There was minor damage. The Government motor-launch *Lady Escott* foundered at Makogai whilst attempting to move to a safer anchorage.

On Saturday, 22nd February, very heavy rains and squally winds from E.N.E. were experienced. At this time there was a cyclonic disturbance to N.W. of Suva. There was a rather rapid fall in the barometer after 10h. when at 17h. it commenced to rise. At 17h. 40m., the barometer suddenly fell from 29.65 to 29.44 and rose again to 29.65 in approximately one minute. At the same instant a whirlwind struck the Government Slip and Messrs. Terry and Sons' works, passing close to an office where the maximum velocity of wind recorded by Dines' Pressure Tube Anemometer was 77 m.p.h. It appeared to originate near the Tamavua Hills and moving in a south-westerly direction, crossed the harbour and disappeared over the reef a short distance S.E. of the Pile Light. Considerable damage was done to buildings and trees in the path of the storm; the A.K. *Helena* (59 tons) was lifted bodily off the

Government Slipway and blown against a shed approximately 10 yards distant; half of Messrs. Terry & Sons' works was demolished; two dinghys were seen to be lifted up in the centre of the whirl and carried away.

At 15h. 30m. on the 28th March a dense nimbus cloud was visible to S.S.W. moving in a N.N.E. direction. A waterspout formed in this cloud when within a short distance S.E. of this station. As it passed over, there was a very slight fall in the barometer and the wind reached 19 m.p.h. from S.W.; at 15h. 47m. it passed over the wharf reclamation, Messrs. Terry and Sons' works and the Government Slip, breaking up near the northern extremity of the harbour. A few sheets of iron were lifted off Messrs. Terry and Sons' boat shed. As far as could be seen, it is estimated that the upper column (which was perpendicular) came within 200 feet of the lower, when it hit the land and broke up. The waterspout was revolving clockwise.

On the 28th May a severe earth tremor was experienced at Suva and throughout Vitilevu at 12h. 18m. 05s. Local Standard Time lasting approximately 20 seconds.

On the 23rd and 24th of November a small but severe hurricane passed through the Fiji Group moving in a south-easterly direction. The centre of the storm passed over the extreme northern portion of the Yasawa Group, North Eastern portion of Vitilevu, Levuka (Ovalau) and the Islands of Southern Lau. The lowest barometer at Suva was 29.220 at 5.30 p.m. on 23rd, and the maximum wind velocity 71 m.p.h. (force 11) from South at 7.55 p.m. The lowest barometer reading reported from Levuka was 28.208 at 7 p.m. At 6 p.m. the wind was E.N.E., force 12. A lull occurred between 7.10 p.m. and 7.55 p.m. when the wind came in from W. by S., hurricane force. This storm travelled at the rate of 20 miles per hour and caused considerable damage to crops and native dwellings. The damage to European houses was not serious. At Levuka much damage was done to the waterfront and wharf owing to the tremendous seas in the harbour. A number of native cutters were wrecked or blown ashore, and about 12 lives were lost, including 2 Europeans. This hurricane passed a short distance N. of Nukualofa, Tonga, on the 24th. These storms are very rare in November. The rain which accompanied this storm was not great, but was a welcome relief in the existing drought conditions.

The rainfall for the year was 102.92 in., being 14.49 in. less than the average for 46 years. Rain fell on 235 days and the greatest fall at Suva in any one day was 6.69 in. on 22nd February.

The following table gives a summary of the meteorological observations for 1930 :—

Months.	*Mean Pressure in inches.*		*Air Temperature (F°).*										*Mean Vapour Pressure in Millibars.*		*Mean Relative Humidity (Saturation = 100).*		*Mean Amount of Cloud.*	
			Mean Dry Bulb.		*Mean Wet Bulb.*		*Means of*		*Absolute Max. and Min.*									
							Max.	*Min.*	*Max.*	*Date.*	*Min.*	*Date.*						
	8·30*a*	3·30*p*	8·30*a*	3·30*p*	8·30*a*	3·30*p*							8·30*a*	3·30*p*	8·30*a*	3·30*p*	8·30*a*	3·30*p*
January ...	29·766	29·708	82·2	83·6	77·2	78·1	86·9	75·4	92	14	70	27	29·8	30·5	79·4	77·9	6·4	7·2
February ...	29·764	29·701	82·0	84·3	76·8	77·7	87·0	75·6	91	9, 24	69	5	29·2	29·6	78·5	73·7	6·0	6·8
March ...	29·838	29·767	81·0	83·7	76·6	77·2	86·4	75·5	92	10	70	22	29·4	29·0	81·4	74·0	6·6	6·8
April ...	29·880	29·807	80·0	81·9	74·9	75·4	85·5	72·7	89	11	69	5, 24	27·3	27·1	78·3	73·3	5·7	5·9
May ...	29·944	29·872	76·8	77·8	72·4	72·9	81·2	72·1	88	2	68	29	25·3	25·6	80·1	78·6	8·0	8·2
June ...	29·988	29·913	74·3	76·1	68·8	69·4	78·6	68·1	85	25	61	16	21·6	21·6	74·9	70·3	6·2	6·1
July ...	29·966	29·884	72·4	74·5	67·2	68·1	76·3	67·7	83	8	62	26	20·7	20·8	75·6	70·9	6·9	7·1
August ...	30·010	29·926	72·6	75·0	67·2	68·1	77·4	67·0	90	12	61	3 & 4	20·4	20·5	74·3	68·9	6·5	6·0
September	29·972	29·888	71·1	73·2	66·1	66·6	75·1	65·6	80	16, 28, 29, 30	58	7	19·8	19·4	76·3	69·8	7·7	7·3
October ...	30·018	29·947	76·0	77·5	69·3	69·9	80·3	69·3	86	16, 18	62	14	21·6	21·8	70·5	67·2	6·9	6·8
November...	29·922	29·849	77·8	78·6	72·0	72·4	81·7	72·1	87	3	66	25	24·4	24·5	75·2	73·5	8·4	8·0
December...	29·847	29·790	79·7	80·9	73·7	74·0	83·8	73·5	87	11, 14	70	19 & 31	25·7	25·6	74·6	71·5	7·2	6·7
Year ...	29·910	29·838	77·2	78·9	71·9	72·5	81·7	71·2	—	—	—	—	24·6	24·7	76·6	72·5	6·9	6·9

The following tables give the rainfall for 1930 at rainfall stations in the dry and wet districts of Fiji, together with the annual average rainfall over a period of years as stated in the first column :—

DRY DISTRICTS.

No. of years.	*Station.*	*Province.*	*Average Yearly Rainfall.*	*Actual Rainfall 1930.*
11	Delanasau	Bua	85·48	61·38
36	Labasa	Macuata	80·71	30·01
30	Lautoka	Ba	67·37	31·29
24	Lawaga	Nadroga	68·23	46·54
17	Makogai	Lomaiviti	72·30	52·04
35	Munia	Lau	69·25	42·59
1	Nailaga	Ba	—	36·20
9	Narovurovu	Ba	82·33	38·34
29	Navo	Ba	64·07	41·38
46	Penang	Ra	81·37	49·44
36	Rarawai	Ba	80·66	40·36
4	Sigatoka Cotton Station.	Nadroga	64·94	44·25
1	Vaileka	Ra	—	43·75
4	Vuni Lagi	Cakandrove	67·61	31·74
9	Katafanga	Lau	63·50	34·00

WET DISTRICTS.

3	Devo	Cakandrove	91·17	51·52
6	Korovou	Tailevu	143·08	104·74
36	Levuka	Lomaiviti	89·63	56·04
11	Mua	Cakandrove	106·36	72·07
13	Nabouwalu	Bua	102·57	60·08
30	Nadarivatu	Colo North	128·02	77·58
14	Naitonitoni	Serua	126·28	90·66
36	Nausori	Tailevu	114·12	90·16
4	Navuso	Rewa	107·75	73·93
26	Rabi	Cakandrove	138·80	45·93
26	Rotuma	Rotuma	139·83	149·71
15	Salialevu	Cakandrove	209·70	113·02
46	Suva	Rewa	117·41	102·92
24	Valeci	Cakandrove	102·59	74·63
11	Vuna	Cakandrove	117·59	72·08
18	Vunidawa	Colo East	139·79	93·57
6	Waidau	Lomaiviti	100·07	74·46
51	Wainunu	Bua	147·49	80·34
24	Waiyevo	Taveuni	96·26	44·93

From the foregoing it will be seen that the rainfall for each station for 1930 is considerably below normal, in some cases as much as 50 per cent and in a few, 60 to 70 per cent. The rainfall for the island of Rotuma (which is not in the Group) was above normal by 9.88 inches.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During 1930, 53 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the principal :—

The Marriage Amendment Ordinance.—This Ordinance is the result of a conference with representatives of the Indian Christian, Hindu, Arya Samaj, and Muslim communities who unanimously agreed to the amendments which this Ordinance makes in the Marriage Ordinance, 1918. The object is to bring Indian marriages more into accord with the marriages of Europeans. The amendment of Section 41 prevents in the future the registration of polygamous marriages, of which there have been very few in the past. The amendment of Section 42, requiring the assent of the mother in the absence of the father, restores a principle recognized in the Indian Marriage Ordinance, 1892.

The Indictable Offences Amendment Ordinance.—The purpose of this Ordinance is to enable certain indictable offences, which in their special circumstances may not be of a very grave nature, to be remitted by the Attorney-General to the committing magistrate to be dealt with summarily if the accused consents to be so tried.

The Indian Immigrants Repatriation Ordinance.—Under the Indian Immigrants Ordinance, 1924, the right to a free passage to India of immigrants who arrived in the Colony after the 17th May, 1906, expired on the 31st December, 1930. Many such immigrants have not exercised the right. The rights of immigrants who arrived in the Colony before the 17th May, 1906, remain unaffected.

The Indian Education Rating Ordinance.—This Ordinance provides a simple method of levying a rate upon Indians between the ages of 18 and 60 years towards the support of schools devoted exclusively to Indian education. Areas in the vicinity of such schools may be proclaimed as rating areas and male Indians of the prescribed age residing in such areas may be required to pay such rate, not exceeding four, six, or eight shillings (according to income), as the Governor in Council by proclamation may determine.

The Bastardy Ordinance.—This Ordinance consolidates the various English Statutes dealing with the subject of Bastardy Orders, and amends them in accordance with recent English legislation. The Ordinance introduces some minor alterations in the English law which are considered to be improvements. For instance, a mother may recover from a putative father the medical and funeral expenses in connexion with a still-born child, one summons may be issued in the case of twins, and a summons may be issued free to the mother in the first instance. The weekly sum which may be ordered to be paid has been raised to 10s. a week. In England the maximum has been raised to 20s. a week, but this is thought to be too high for local conditions.

The Radio Ordinance.—This Ordinance provides for the regulation and control of the use of radio in all its forms by private owners of radio apparatus. The present Ordinance differs from the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1913, which it repeals, in three main respects :—

(*a*) It applies to all forms of radio activity instead of being limited to wireless telegraphy and telephony.

(*b*) It provides for the issue of licences by the Postmaster-General instead of by the Governor.

(*c*) It provides for the licensing of dealers in radio apparatus. This will enable the Government to obtain at source information as to the existence of radio apparatus.

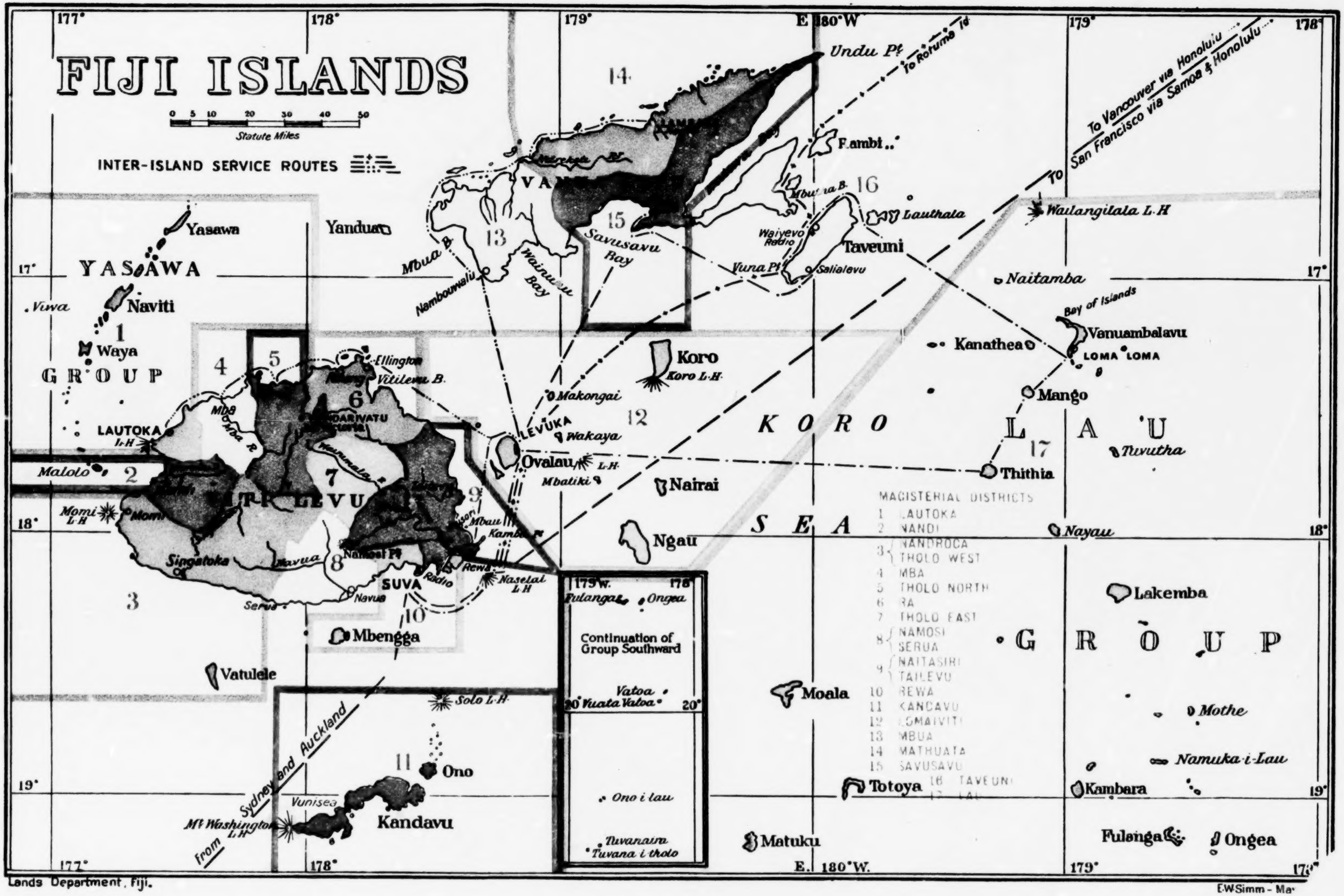
The Traffic Amendment Ordinance.—This Ordinance increases the penalties for driving a vehicle dangerously or while under the influence of drink. Under the principal Ordinance driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs is not an offence; this omission is remedied in the present Ordinance. These amendments are based on the Imperial Road Traffic Act, 1930.

The Cinematograph Amendment Ordinance.—This Ordinance empowers the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for the control and censorship of posters and advertisements of cinematograph films.

The Administration of Estates Ordinance.—This Ordinance transfers to the District Commissioners of the Colony the duties hitherto performed by the Curator. This change is considered to be desirable in the interests both of economy and efficiency.

The Rewa Bridge Loan Ordinance.—This Ordinance authorizes the raising of a loan for the construction of a bridge over the Rewa River at Nausori and the levying of tolls for the use thereof.

(11628—21) Wt. 11315—951 575 9/31 P. St. G. 7/ 8


FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Statute Miles
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
177°
178°
179°
E 180° W
179°
178°
17°
18°
19°
Yasawa
Yandua
YASAWA
GROUP
Viwa
Naviti
Waya
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
LAUTOKA L.H
Malolo
Momi L.H
Singatoka
Serua
Navua
Navua
SUVA
Radio
Rewa
Naselai L.H
Nandi
Mba
Mba R.
NANDARIVATU
Ellington
Vitilevu B.
Waimanu R.
VITI LEVU
Nanuku Pt
Mbau
Kamba Pt
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H
Ono
Vunisea
Mt Washington L.H
Kandavu
from Sydney and Auckland
Undu Pt
To Rotuma Id
Mbua B.
Nambouwalu
Wainunu Bay
Savusavu Bay
VANUA LEVU
Natewa Bay
Rambi
Mbutha B.
Lauthala
Waiyevo Radio
Taveuni
Vuna Pt
Salialevu
Makongai
LEVUKA
Wakaya
Ovalau
Mbatiki
L.H
Koro
Koro L.H
Nairai
Ngau
KORO SEA
To Vancouver via Honolulu
San Francisco via Samoa & Honolulu
To
Wailangilala L.H
Naitamba
Bay of Islands
Vanuambalavu
LOMA LOMA
Kanathea
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
LAU GROUP
Nayau
Lakemba
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
Mothe
Namuka-i-Lau
Kambara
Fulanga
Ongea
179°W.
178°
Fulanga
Ongea
Continuation of Group Southward
Vatoa
20°
Vuata Vatoa
20°
Ono i lau
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
1 LAUTOKA
2 NANDI
3 { NANDROGA / THOLO WEST
4 MBA
5 THOLO NORTH
6 RA
7 THOLO EAST
8 { NAMOSI / SERUA
9 { NAITASIRI / TAILEVU
10 REWA
11 KANDAVU
12 LOMAIVITI
13 MBUA
14 MATHUATA
15 SAVUSAVU
16 TAVEUNI
17 LAU
E. 180° W.
177°
178°
179°

Lands Department, Fiji.

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FIJI, 1931

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The Fijian Group, which lies between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east, comprises about 250 islands, of which about 80 are inhabited. The largest island is Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sidney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Climate.

The climate is comparatively cool for the tropics, and there is no malaria.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under investigation by research students; in the meantime the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several States which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Cakaudrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society; and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required ", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on 12th October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the

Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, three other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the rate-payers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance, 1928, gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board, whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are two proclaimed townships in the Colony, Nausori in the district of Rewa and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of

Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In each of the country districts there is a Road Board, under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner, who is responsible for the maintenance of the roads in that district. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted as the official language. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 75,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoke by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of Fiji was on 31st December, 1931, made up as follows:—

Europeans, 5,058; half-castes, 3,446; Fijians, 93,414; Polynesians, 1,883; Indians, 76,722; Rotumans, 2,407; Chinese, 1,441; Others, 1,202; making a total population of 185,573. Of this total, Fijians comprised 50.28 per cent., Indians 41.34 per cent., and Europeans 2.73 per cent. The estimated population shows an increase of 28,307 since the census of 1921, or an aggregate rate of increase of 17.99 per cent. For the first time for many years there has been an estimated decrease in the European population.

On 31st December, 1931, it was estimated that there were 24.95 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population is confined almost wholly to the island of Rotuma, in which the native population amounts to 171.93 to the square mile.

There were 6,297 births registered during the year, which is a a decrease of 183 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1925 to 1931.

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Europeans ...	16·68	18·16	24·78	17·42	19·88	16·94	17·20
Half-castes ...	29·65	31·91	23·08	32·56	35·96	30·30	43·82
Fijians ...	32·29	33·95	32·53	33·36	31·91	36·43	35·34
Rotumans ...	56·97	48·95	50·57	52·21	50·75	54·91	46·95
Indians ...	33·14	32·65	27·72	34·90	34·86	36·02	33·45

The Rotuman birth-rate is below normal while the half-caste birth-rate shows a substantial increase on previous years.

There were 3,045 deaths registered during the year, which is 1,006 less than in 1930. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1925 to 1931 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931*
Europeans ...	9·08	9·32	9·60	7·62	8·46	9·45	9·09
Half-castes ...	7·33	12·69	7·37	9·39	9·44	14·70	11·03
Fijians ...	22·75	23·09	22·98	24·95	24·66	31·24	22·22
Rotumans ...	64·38	29·29	36·29	51·77	48·10	27·03	14·54
Indians ...	7·25	8·26	9·42	10·80	9·06	12·30	10·19

The following table shows the deaths under one year per thousand births :—

European.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Indians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Total.*
34·44	33·11	113·30	76·77	44·25	94·33

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1925 to 1931 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Europeans ...	28	38	34	47	46	33	38
Half-castes ...	22	14	16	41	28	21	18
Fijians ...	857	708	760	906	973	744	1,085
Rotumans ...	23	37	28	11	27	15	29
Indians ...	174	195	254	276	879	1,926	954

The marriage-rate per thousand of the population is set out in the following table :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Indians.*	*Total.*
7·51	5·22	11·61	12·05	12·43	11·67

There were 1,085 Fijian marriages registered during the year, being the highest number on record for this class of the population. The number of Fijian marriages registered during the previous year was 744. The number of Indian marriages registered for the year was 954 as compared with 1,926 for the previous year.

A return of the population and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in			Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males	Females		Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial.	Number	Rate per 1,000.		Number	Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.															
Europeans { Fiji ...	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878		0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—	—	—
Europeans { Rotuma	23	7	—	—											
Half-castes { Fiji ...	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781		0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—	—	—
Half-castes { Rotuma	—	—	29	23											
Fijians	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475		11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235		0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indians	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634		8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—	—	—
‡Polynesians... ...	—	—	1,271	293	1.564		0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	—	—	845	65	910		0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	431	358	789		0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266		21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1931.															
Europeans	2,638	2,420	—	—	5,058		·68	—	—	—	87	17·20	38	46	9·09
Half-castes	—	—	1,774	1,672	3,446		·46	—	—	—	151	43·82	18	38	11·03
Fijians	—	—	47,962	45,452	93,414		12·51	—	—	—	3,301	35·34	1,085	2,076	22·22
Rotumans	—	—	1,195	1,212	2,407		171·93	—	—	—	113	46·95	29	35	14·54
Indians	—	—	45,644	31,078	76,722		10·31	—	—	—	2,566	33·45	954	782	10·19
‡Polynesians... ...	—	—	1,317	566	1,883		·25	—	—	—	41	21·77	14	29	15·40
Chinese	—	—	1,319	122	1,441		·19	—	—	—	16	11·10	—	8	5·55
Others...	—	—	792	410	1,202		·16	—	—	—	22	18·30	28	31	25·79
Totals ...	2,638	2,420	100,003	80,512	185,573		24·95	—	—	—	6,297	33·93	2,166	3,045	16·41

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

‡ "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

POPULATION OF SUVA MUNICIPALITY.

Class of population.	*Number of taxpayers.*	*Population census* 1921.	*Estimated population 31st March,* 1932.
Europeans	690	1,436	1,918
Half-castes	206	395	939
Fijians	—	872	1,500
Indians	2,234	3,040	4,557
Chinese	261	278	311
Others (estimated) ...	120	385	600
	3,511	6,406	9,825

POPULATION OF SUVA SUBURBS.

Europeans		317	700
Half-castes		189	350
Fijians		1,109	2,000
Indians		4,206	5,500
Chinese		56	70
Others (estimated)		250	300
		6,127	8,920
Total population—Suva and Suburbs		12,533	18,745

POPULATION OF LEVUKA AND SUBURBS.

Europeans	172	414	454
Half-castes	110	411	619
Fijians (estimated) ...	—	250	250
Indians	212	1,016	454
Chinese	123	102	146
Others	94	286	94
	711	2,479	2,017

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance of 1909 and strict supervision is exercised by the Constabulary to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) and of Indian and Polynesian immigrants is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1931.

EMIGRATION—1931.

Nationality.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,601	5,078	31.33
Indians	614	75,117	.817
Chinese	135	1,503	8.98
Others	94	1,197	7.85

IMMIGRATION—1931.

Nationality.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	582	5,078	11.45
Indians	334	75,117	.444
Chinese	40	1,503	2.66
Others	56	1,197	4.67

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population at the end of December, 1931, was 185,573, including Fijians 93,414, Indians 76,722, and Europeans 5,058. The total death-rate per thousand was 16.41, as against 22.19 in 1930, a decrease of 5.78. The Fijian death-rate was 22.22, a decrease of 9.02 over the previous year. The mortality-rate of the Indian population was 10.19 showing a decrease of 1.11. The birth-rate for the Colony was 33.93, a decrease of 1.56 over the year 1930.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of eighteen Medical Officers under the direct control of a Chief Medical Officer. A highly qualified bacteriologist is stationed at Suva and has charge of a bacteriological laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. This institution, which is a well-equipped building with 120 beds, an operating theatre and X-ray plant, caters for all classes of the community and is also a Nurses' Training School. The Australian Nursing Association accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its Nursing Diploma to candidates who have passed the necessary examinations. The Medical and

Nursing Staffs consist of a Medical Superintendent and an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron and four trained Sisters, and twelve European probationer nurses. In addition, there are twenty-four native nurses in training.

The Central Medical School, an enlargement of the old Medical School, is situated in the hospital grounds. It consists of lecture rooms, museum, laboratory, and an anatomical department. The students' dormitory is situated close to the School, and has accommodation for forty students. The Rockefeller Foundation granted the sum of £8,000 for the erection and maintenance of the School. The teaching staff consists of a whole-time tutor and fourteen lecturers and demonstrators. The following students registered at the School during 1931 :—19 Fijians, 4 Samoans, 5 Tongans, 2 Cook Islanders, 5 Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, 2 Solomon Islanders, 1 Indian, and 2 from the New Hebrides, making a total of 40. It will thus be seen that the Central Medical School receives students from practically the whole of the Western Pacific Group of Islands. The course of instruction in the past was a three years' one, but it was thought advisable, owing to the increase in size of the syllabus, to extend the course to four years. December, 1931, closed, with very satisfactory results, the first year under the new four years' course system. After graduating, these students receive diplomas as native medical practitioners and are then posted to a country district, or attached to a hospital under a European Medical Officer. A subordinate Medical Service has thus been created consisting in Fiji of 50 native medical practitioners, and four Indian medical practitioners.

The problem of leprosy, a disease which is very prevalent in the Pacific Islands, is being very thoroughly tackled in Fiji. On the island of Makogai there is a most modern and up-to-date institution. The staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Lay Superintendent, and 13 European, and 9 Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, which also receives lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands.

The control of health matters and sanitation in the country is vested in the hands of 14 District Medical Officers, 50 native medical practitioners, and 4 Indian medical practitioners. There are 3 European Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom is at present seconded to the Rockefeller Foundation and is in charge of an ankylostomiasis campaign. There are also 5 Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

A most complete and thorough system of hospitalization prevails throughout the Colony. The following centres have general hospitals :—Levuka, Lautoka, Nadi, and Ra. There is also an Indian Women's Hospital at Ba, which is conducted by the Methodist Mission and subsidized by the Government, which also subsidizes cottage hospitals for Europeans at Ba and Taveuni.

Child Welfare.

The Child welfare scheme was instituted in the Colony under Nurse Suckling in the year 1927. This nurse is a European trained specially for this work in New Zealand. In the year 1928 Dr. Regina Roberts, the wife of the American Consul, undertook this work in the villages within reach of Suva. This lady is a qualified doctor, who initiated and carried out very successfully a similar scheme in Samoa. A great deal of enthusiasm is being shown by the natives in this work, upon which they have realized that the future of their race depends. In practically every village throughout the Colony village child welfare committees have been started, each of which is responsible to the welfare worker of the district. In the year 1928 the work was transferred from the Medical Department to the Native Department. It has grown steadily since, and to-day there are six European trained nurses doing infant-welfare work in various parts of Fiji. In addition, these European nurses are assisted by ten specially trained native obstetric nurses.

Health and Sanitation.

The health of the Colony, taken as a whole, has been satisfactory, with the exception of a mild epidemic of Shiga dysentery during the first half of the year, and mild influenza during the last quarter of the year. The increased interest shewn by the Government and local authorities in public health matters has continued, and marked improvements in general cleanliness and sanitary conditions are noticeable in both urban and rural areas.

Meteorological.

The rainfall was 122.60 inches as against 102.22 inches for 1930. Good rains fell throughout the year, and the water-supplies were well maintained. A severe hurricane visited the Group in February and caused considerable damage to property and food crops, and was attended with heavy loss of life through the unprecedented flooding of rivers in certain districts.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—This disease was fairly prevalent during the first half of the year, but tailed off with the advent of the cool season.

Total incidence for the Colony.—

	Cases.
1930	698
1931	787
Increase	89

Monthly incidence.—

	1st half 1931.	2nd half 1931.	Monthly rate. Per cent.
Urban Suva	22	5	1.3
Rural Suva	49	15	1.5
Other districts	518	178	

Racial Incidence.—

Europeans 31, Fijians 381, Indians 330, Half-castes 22.

It will be observed from the above figures that the incidence and the mortality rates are much lower this year for the urban and rural areas of Suva, a fact which may be attributed to the excellent work being done by the sanitary campaign started at the end of 1930. The virulence of the disease, judging by the death-rate, was much milder than in the 1929 epidemic. The control of this disease is extremely difficult owing to the mixed nature of the population, and the conditions under which most of the people live. It would appear that the gradual establishment of fixed standards of sanitation in regard to latrines, of better methods for the disposal of garbage, of a purer water and milk supply, of better housing, of improved protection of food from flies, together with the inclusion of information on sanitary matters in school curricula, and the enforcement of these improved standards should go a long way towards reducing the incidence of this disease in these islands.

Typhoid.—Of the 107 cases of enteric notified for the year, 4 came from the Suva urban area, 4 from the Suva rural area, and 99 cases from other parts of the Colony. The low incidence (only 2 cases) of this disease in the Rewa district is noteworthy, as in this district it was endemic for years. This result is to be attributed to the mass inoculation of the population with T.A.B. vaccine annually. It would appear advisable that these mass inoculations should be continued in that district until such time as the water-supply, which is mainly surface wells, and the soil sanitation are improved.

Diphtheria.—Cases of sore throat with mild fever and suggestive tonsillitis were investigated at the Boys' Grammar School during May. Throat swabs were negative to the K.L.B. tests, but among the immediate contacts, two gave positive results and were isolated at the hospital.

Influenza.—This disease is endemic, but assumed epidemic form during the last quarter and spread throughout the Colony. Severe pulmonary complications were few, and the death-rate was small.

Trachoma.—The percentage incidence of this disease for the Colony has not been so far definitely settled. This disease has been notifiable since 1929, and powers to isolate have been provided. The chronic nature of the disease and the prolonged and tedious course of treatment, usually a year, are factors against isolation from the point of view of cost of maintenance, and the hardship inflicted on the people through being kept away from their homes for such a length of time. Arrangements are being made for a campaign against this distressing disease, and the Education and Native Departments have been invited to co-operate. With regard to the racial incidence, over 75 per cent. of cases of eye trouble occur among the Fijians. Whether or not all these cases are pure trachoma is a matter of doubt, as there is a great deal of chronic conjunctivitis among the Fijian race due to their habit of sitting at night in their houses which are full of smoke from their fires. The whole question of eye trouble in the Colony is at present receiving the attention of the Medical Department.

Food Control.

Dairies and milk.—There are twenty-five registered dairies in the Colony. Bi-monthly inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspectors, who report that the premises are being maintained to a reasonable standard. Compliance with by-laws made under the Public Health Ordinance require all bovine animals on registered dairy premises to be annually tested for tuberculosis at Government expense. An interesting report on the work of testing cattle for tuberculosis was submitted by the Senior Veterinary Officer to the Central Board of Health, in which he states that, of the 1,108 animals tested, 154 reactors were found and 47 were classified as doubtful. The percentage of infected cattle was 13.9 per cent. The segregation of these infected cattle, as required by the by-laws, is presenting some difficulties and this problem is at present receiving consideration.

Milk depot.—The question of a milk depot has been under consideration by the Central Board of Health, and a special committee has been appointed to investigate and report on the feasibility of such a scheme. There is no doubt that there is the urgent need for a depot, in view of the prevalence of dysentery, typhoid, and tuberculosis, and the possibility of undulant fever being endemic.

Anti-mosquito measures.—The gang employed on this work, as part of the anti-mosquito campaign, started last year, but, unfortunately, owing to shortage of funds, its operations had to be stopped last April. The valuable work that was done up till then, in the way of weeding, cleaning, improving surface drainage, and cementing tree holes, will without doubt result in a certain amount of benefit to the community. An interesting experiment in this work has been the introduction of the Megarrhinus mosquito from Java, and the releasing of colonies of these mosquitoes in different districts. As these mosquitoes feed on the larvae of mosquitoes, a great reduction in the number of the Aedes mosquito is anticipated.

Anti-fly measures.—Towards the end of March colonies of Mesendrina and Meridiana were liberated. These flies live on cow dung and the maggots of the house fly present in cow dung, and it is hoped that they will constitute an active agent in the reduction of house flies breeding around dairies, etc. The reduction in numbers of the house fly, at the gaol, asylum, depot, and the other main institutions has been noticeable during the year, probably in the most part due, however, to the high standard of sanitation that is being enforced.

Health Exhibit.—A health exhibit section was held at the Annual Show, drawing attention to matters affecting the public health. Amongst the many interesting items was a moving picture show held every half hour. Eleven public health films on various subjects were obtained from Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia, and eighteen displays were given. The attendance on the first day averaged 250, and on the second day pupils of the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools and the Convent attended. There were also exhibits of flies and mosquitoes, and an instructive lecture was given on child welfare.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions prevailing in Suva for the labouring classes have been in the past far from satisfactory. Houses and tenements have been erected in many of the poorer class districts without regard to proper access, drainage, or ventilation. The question of housing has exercised the minds of the health authorities for some time, and in October, 1930, new building regulations were brought into force which, to say the least, are 100 per cent. in advance of those previously in force. They provide, amongst other things, for better sites, alignment, drainage, access, sanitation, ventilation, and materials used in construction in all classes of buildings, commercial and residential. Before a new building can be erected or any alterations made to existing buildings, a notice of such intention must be submitted to the Municipal Council, accompanied by proper plans for their approval. The main business part of the town, which has certain defined boundaries, is known as the " inner area " and all new buildings or alterations in this area must be in concrete. No longer can land be sub-divided up at the wish of the owner for building purposes, until approved by the Town Council, and such sub-division must be according to approved plans. The majority of residential buildings in the urban area are of wood and iron. Main institutions, however, such as schools and a few commercial buildings, are constructed of concrete. The rural area of Suva has always been a source of anxiety to the Central Board of Health owing to the defective sanitary conditions, and was nearly always subject to periodic epidemics of dysentery. In 1930 the Governor appointed a committee, which made certain recommendations, and, as a result, a vigorous campaign has been carried out in this area. This work was commenced in November, 1930, and already marked improvements are noticeable. Occupied premises not provided with sufficient sanitary accommodation have been reduced from 90 per cent. to less than 3 per cent. Fully 90 per cent. of existing latrines were found not to come up to the required standard and were condemned. In the majority of cases these latrines were replaced by the installation of the cement slab type, over flank-shaped excavations, varying in depth from 12 feet to 20 feet. This aims at the prevention of fly-breeding and mosquito-breeding, and at minimizing the spread of hookworm infection.

In order to facilitate house-to-house inspection, cards of the Rockefeller international design were made out for each house. In addition to first inspections, these cards contain a record of all subsequent action taken, such as the service of notices, etc. In addition, metal number plates have been affixed to each dwelling bearing the same number as the appropriate record card filed in the Health Office. This survey also covers other sanitary matters such as water-supply, surface drainage, and general cleanliness.

Dwelling-house By-laws.—These new by-laws were made by the local authority for rural Suva and came into force early in 1931, and are without doubt a marked improvement on the previous ones in force. They provide for access, site, drainage, air space, clearing of bush around houses, ventilation, height of walls, size of rooms, and sanitary accommodation. Notice of intention to erect is compulsory, and upon completion and before occupation, a certificate is necessary that the building has been erected according to law. The strict enforcement of these by-laws, more particularly the above, has brought about a very marked improvement in the type of house that is now being erected.

Structure of Buildings.—Of the 1,804 premises inspected during the campaign, 469 were constructed of grass, 382 of wood, 946 of tin, and 7 of concrete.

Distribution of population.—The average number of people per dwelling throughout this district is about 4.7 Indian, 3.0 European, 4.0 Fijian and 2.6 Chinese, but there is a certain amount of overcrowding of individual premises, chiefly in respect of houses let in lodgings.

Housing in Suva.

The wage-earning population of Suva, other than the European section employed by business houses, is drawn from several races, with Indians and Fijians predominating. Unskilled daily labourers wages vary from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day, rising to £4 to £8 per month for semi-skilled mechanics, carpenters, and principal domestic servants. Skilled carpenters and mechanics may receive up to 15s. per day. The more highly paid individuals in many cases own their own dwellings and in some cases also the land on which they are built, but more generally the land is held under leasehold tenure. The large majority of the wage-earners in manual employment dwell in tenement houses, each individual with his family, if any, occupying a room or rooms and sharing the cooking and sanitary facilities provided.

Tenement houses are in most cases leased by one tenant from the landlord or owner for somewhat high rentals and each room is sub-let by him for about four or five shillings rent per week. Prior to the provision of a modern sewerage system within the municipality, sanitary arrangements were usually crude and inadequate and there was overcrowding. The primitive habits of the majority of the residents made betterment difficult.

Following the completion of a water-borne sewerage system some years ago, and the enactment of new building regulations by the Municipal Council in 1930, considerable progress has been made in the proper disposal of sewerage and refuse, and the improvement of living conditions in existing buildings. Any new buildings are required to be built in conformity with standard requirements. The regulations are being firmly administered.

House and room rents are commonly considered as high, but in accounting for this it is necessary to take into consideration the enhanced value of land in or adjacent to the business section of the town, the high cost of imported building materials, and of skilled labour, the possibility of damage by storms, and the heavy depreciation due to climatic conditions, especially as affecting buildings of wooden construction, insurance, and by no means least, municipal taxation.

Outside the business section of the town, the utilization of land for residential purposes is proceeding slowly in large measure, on account of the hilly nature of the terrain in and around the municipality, which renders the cost of roading and opening up new areas very heavy. Such expenditure is only very slowly being incurred by the municipality and by land owners, on account of the prevailing economic situation.

East Indians, in many cases, build their homes on the time-payment system. Where such dwellings are occupied wholly by their owners or partly by their owners and partly by tenants, the improvements, from a sanitary standpoint, are remarkable as compared with tenement buildings owned by landlords who do not reside on the premises. Sanitary conveniences, of fly-proof type, are being insisted upon by the health authorities in areas beyond the reach of the main sewerage system. Old and inadequate conveniences are being replaced and a strict inspection of all new buildings is made to ensure that builders and contractors adhere to the provisions of the health and building regulations.

Economic conditions have hitherto precluded the formation of Building or Starr-Bowkett Societies, and building activities are dependent on private capital.

The Government, as owner of some 320 acres of land situated about three-quarters of a mile north of the Suva Municipality, has commenced thereon a comprehensive scheme of improvement by proper subdivision, by roading, and by the provision of a main water-supply. This area is largely occupied by East Indians, most of whom find employment in Suva. New houses in this area must be constructed in accordance with the health regulations, and the owners of old houses are required to effect improvements and otherwise conform with the requirements of the regulations. Unfortunately the present state of the Colony's finances precludes any large expenditure on the scheme.

Housing of Fijians.

The Fijian natives at the end of 1931, numbered 93,414, about 50.03 per cent. of the total population of the Colony. Every Fijian is a member of a land-owning tribal unit and has sufficient agricultural land to grow the food crops necessary for the support of himself and his family. As there is no absolute necessity for him to work for wages in order to support himself there is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their living on their earnings as labourers. Until comparatively recently the Fijians in their villages lived invariably in thatched houses, each married man being provided with a separate house erected by communal labour. As regards single men in some cases a number of these share a house and in other cases they live with their parents. As the land is owned by the people, no question of rental arises. The houses are of attractive appearance, cool, comfortable and reasonably healthy, but require to be rebuilt at fairly frequent intervals. This imposes a heavy burden on the villagers, particularly as, as is often the case, the man-power of a village is depleted owing to a number of able-bodied men having left a village to earn money for the erection of a church, the building of a boat, the installation of a water-supply, or for some other similar object of common benefit. Of late years there has been a growing desire for wood and iron buildings and an increasing number of these are being built. Houses built of wood and iron last longer without attention and offer greater resistance to the gales which often visit the islands during the hot season. With limited resources at their command it has been impossible for the Fijians to build sufficiently large houses of this character to ensure health and comfort. It is recognized, however, that a change in the type of house occupied by Fijians is necessary and the advent of the wood and iron building has been encouraged by Government as a stepping stone to something better. Every endeavour is now being made to improve the new type of building. For example, a recent Native Regulation provides that a side wall must be at least 9 feet in height, and further the people are encouraged to put wooden ceilings in their houses, under the corrugated iron roof. In 1930 a committee was appointed to consider the question of an improved type of building suitable for present-day requirements and having regard to the finances of the people. As regards roofing material, experiments with locally made shingles are now being carried out and it is hoped that shingles may provide a suitable and cool roof that will last a sufficiently long time to justify the initial expenditure on their purchase which will probably be somewhat greater than that involved by the corrugated iron roofing. On the sugar estates married men are generally housed in separate wood and iron buildings of comfortable dimensions and single men are given quarters in a building divided into separate rooms, each of which is large enough to accomodate three or four persons. The housing on the copra plantations is of the same type but not always of so high a standard as that found on the sugar estates. On the smaller plantations thatched houses are generally provided, of sufficient size to accommodate in comfort the number of persons required to be housed. The provision of adequate accommodation for labourers on all plantations is required by law.

Housing for Indians in rural parts.

Apart from the few small townships and " bazaars " in the Colony the rural Indian population may be said to be housed approximately half in corrugated iron buildings and half in thatched buildings. Except in the townships and " bazaars " where a number of Indians live in buildings rented from landlords, the great mass of the Indian population lives in houses which are the property of the head of the family which is in occupation and have been built by him on his own small holding leased to him by the Government on behalf of the native owners.

The thatched houses vary very considerably in standard of comfort which depends to a considerable extent on the kind of thatching material available. In some rice centres where rice straw is available the thatched houses attain a high standard and are comfortable and clean. A number of the farmers use clay plaster on their walls and floors and in some localities a very convenient and safe type of rice barn has been evolved. The main defect of the Indian type of house is that Indians generally do not adopt the practice followed by the Fijians of raising their floors above ground level. On the other hand the light Indian thatch suffers far less damage from a severe hurricane than the heavy Fijian bure. The Indian hut is more easily re-erected and there is less damage to house property when it falls.

With regard to the corrugated iron type of house, a model type of cottage has been evolved in a number of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's settlements where material has been available, and some overseers and tenants take considerable pride in keeping these neat and clean. The material used is mostly obtained from dismantled labour lines and stables. The old type of long building, used as lines for a number of families, is now largely replaced by separate cottages, both at mill centres and in the districts.

Generally speaking, outside the areas in which the Colonial Sugar Refining Company operates the standard of housing is improving steadily and the sales to Indians of timber by the local Nadarivatu Timber Company for roofing and other housing purposes are increasing rapidly.

It is rare to find a completely satisfactory kitchen in the corrugated iron type of house. It has not yet been possible to evolve a type of kitchen flue wholly suitable for Indian cooking purposes. A number of the kitchens are begrimed with smoke and complaints of damage to eyes are not uncommon. The Sugar Company, apart from its use of old material which is available, is now stocking cottage material, iron sheeting, and timber frame work of a standard pattern. The price at which this can be made available by the Company effects a material reduction in the cost of housing.

Where the family and its stock and gear are housed mainly under thatches it is not unusual to find a separate building of timber and corrugated iron erected for the protection of valuable property owing to the risk of damage by fire in the case of thatched buildings.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Sugar.

The production of sugar, which is entirely controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, is the principal industry of the Colony. Although the Company cultivates a number of its own plantations it has been its policy to encourage the production of cane by growers whose crops are purchased under contracts providing for a price per ton which fluctuates in accordance with the sugar content as determined when the cane is crushed. Under these conditions approximately 85 per cent. of the cane grown is produced by East Indians, principally tenant farmers working on land leased from the Company. Fijians, under the guidance of officers of the Company, are taking increased interest in cane production for supply to the mills.

The year 1931 will long be remembered as one of the most disastrous in the history of the Colony as far as sugar production is concerned. The industry not only suffered from the uneconomic low level of prices ruling in the world's markets, but in February all the sugar growing districts on Vitilevu, where there are four factories, were visited by a severe hurricane and by floods which caused heavy loss of life and property, and seriously damaged the cane crops. It is difficult to estimate the direct and indirect losses arising out of this visitation, but they cannot have been far short of £400,000.

The actual quantity of sugar exported during 1931 was much below normal and was sold in the following markets :—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	7,122
Canada	54,340
New Zealand	5,897
Others	578
Total	67,937

In spite of the setback caused by floods and hurricane, the crop prospects for 1932 are good, subject to favourable weather conditions being experienced. This is due to the energy with which the cane growers set about reconditioning their farms. There is, however, little prospect of higher values being realized until the world demand for sugar rises to equality with the production.

The Company operates five factories, four of which are situated on the island of Vitilevu and one on the island of Vanualevu.

Particulars of area cropped, etc., for the last statistical year, viz., 1st July, 1930, to 30th June, 1931, are :—

Area cropped	38,789 acres.
Cane crushed	663,473 tons.
Sugar produced	92,134 tons.

Copra.

Including a shipment of 402 tons made from Rotuma in December, 1931, the total export of copra during the year amounted to 17,318 tons compared with 23,882 tons in 1930, and 33,226 tons in 1929. The fall in production is almost entirely due to the effects of drought in 1930, and the adverse weather conditions experienced early in the year, although, to an extent, low market prices discouraged some non-European growers from making copra.

Production is organized both on a system of individual estates of varying sizes and owned by Europeans which produce approximately one-half of the total exports of the Colony, and also on a system of communal ownership by Fijians.

Following the decline in market prices growers have considerably reduced production costs and they are now better fitted to meet low price levels than ever before in the history of the industry. The low prices realized and the reduced output already referred to have, however, limited essential estate operations such as weeding.

Cattle are bred on most of the European-owned estates where, grazed amongst the trees, they keep down the growth of edible plants as well as provide a meat ration for the labourers.

Fijians are employed under annual contracts to a large extent on coconut plantations. Employers are required to provide accommodation, clothing, and rations for the men, and it is estimated that the total cost per annum for contracts made in 1931, including recruiting fees, is approximately £28 per unit.

The Coconut Committee continued the investigation of pests of coco-nuts during the year, attention being concentrated on the control of the spathe boring moth, *tirathaba trichogramma.* It is now proposed to proceed with control measures in regard to the leaf mining beetle, *promecotheca reichei.* Work on this insect, undertaken in Java in 1930, is to be continued by one of the entomologists attached to the Committee who arrived at Buitenzorg, Java, at the end of 1931.

Coco-nut inspectors employed by the Committee continued the duties of improving the output and quality of native copra by clearing and thinning plantations, instructing natives in improved drying methods, and enforcing the provisions of the Copra Ordinance in regard to the storage and treatment of copra. In this work the Committee was assisted by a monetary grant from the Empire Marketing Board which, however, has now expired.

After considering types of hot-air dryers in use in this Colony and in the Mandated Territory of Samoa, the Committee approved of the erection of a selected type of dryer at Vuna, Taveuni, where there is a large area of native-owned coconuts. Erection commenced in December and building operations were in progress at the end of the year.

Bananas.

Exports amounted to 97,783 cases, an increase of 13,261 cases over the previous year.

In common with other crops bananas suffered severely from the storm and floods of the early part of the year, particularly from the floods which almost entirely destroyed the industry in the districts served by the Rewa River and its tributaries. The natives, however, rapidly re-established their plantations and although the monthly shipment in June fell to 3,528 cases, by December exports had increased to 18,199 cases.

A feature of the industry during the year under review is the increased production in coco-nut-growing areas which hitherto have not engaged in the banana trade to any extent. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the low prices realized for copra have compelled coco-nut growers to plant quick-maturing side crops. At the beginning of the year the normal banana-producing areas furnished approximately 70 per cent. of the fruit exported whereas the coconut areas within reasonable distances of the port of shipment produced 30 per cent. By the end of the year the latter areas had increased their production to 48 per cent. of the total.

The only market to which bananas were exported during the year was New Zealand where, due to competition from neighbouring territories such as Samoa, Norfolk Island, and the Cook Islands, together with the reduced purchasing power of the people of the Dominion during the depression, prices fell considerably, especially towards the end of the year.

The cultivation of bananas is almost entirely in the hands of the Fijians who produce approximately 75 per cent. of the quantities exported. Europeans, Indians, and Chinese cultivate limited areas and contribute 5 per cent., 10 per cent., and 10 per cent. respectively of the total exports.

The shipment of the fruit is, however, almost entirely in the hands of Europeans who purchase Fijian-grown bananas at central points in country districts under conditions governed by Regulations made under the Fruit Export Ordinance, 1906. These Regulations provide for the licensing of prescribed areas in which one buyer only is permitted to operate. The buyer, in return for the concession, is required to purchase all good quality fruit offered to him at a packing station at prices fixed from time to time by a Board representative of the Government, of the buyers, and of the growers. This method of control is open to objection on the grounds that the grower is forced to sell to the one person holding a licence in respect of his area. It has, however, the advantage of securing to him a certain market for all of his product at prices fixed in accordance with New Zealand values and of relieving him of all risks of loss in transit, etc. There is no restriction on the grower exporting his fruit either in his own name or through an agent licensed by the Government, and during the year there has been a growing tendency on the part of the Fijian grower towards shipping his produce through agents and taking the risks of greater or smaller returns than those provided by the price-fixing Board. Records show that from 4.9 per cent., at the beginning of the year, the quantity of native fruit exported through agents increased to 17.1 per cent. of the total shipments at the close of the year.

Strict enforcement of the Regulations governing the export of bananas has resulted in a decided improvement in the quality of the fruit exported, and, generally, shipments have landed in New Zealand in excellent condition.

Rice.

Rice is grown entirely for local consumption, the average annual production being in the neighbourhood of 8,500 tons. The milling of paddy is principally a home industry carried on by Indian families for their own requirements, and for sale to their fellow countrymen and in bazaars and Indian-owned stores.

The Government operates a rice mill at Suva, and two merchant firms and a number of Indians run small mills in Suva and in the rice growing districts to which growers dispose of their surplus stocks of paddy.

Practically the whole of the paddy produced is grown by East Indians, each grower cultivating from, on the average, one to five acres. Fijians have recently begun to take an interest in rice growing, particularly in the Tailevu Province but it will be some time before any appreciable quantity of paddy is produced by the native people.

Production is not sufficient to meet local demands and it is necessary to import approximately 2,000 tons of rice per annum to meet requirements. The economic situation has, however, caused many Indians, normally otherwise employed, to engage in rice growing and there are prospects that a considerable quantity of paddy will be offered for sale to the mills during 1932.

Information as to the surplus supplies of paddy offered for sale to the mills is not available. The Government Rice Mill, however, purchased 597 tons of paddy during 1931.

Pineapples.

The Fiji Pineapple Company's factory at Waidau, Ovalau, was not operated for the 1931-32 summer pack and the future of this undertaking has not yet been decided upon. It is particularly unfortunate that operations of this cannery should have ceased as the Company had entered into agreements with Fijians in Lomaiviti and Tailevu Provinces for the supply of fresh fruit and a large number of natives had cleared and prepared their lands for planting.

West Coast Pines, Limited, began canning operations towards the end of the year and has made satisfactory arrangements for the disposal of its pack. This Company estimates its production at 7,500 cases, each of two dozen tins, for the 1931-32 canning season.

The experimental work of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, Limited, was continued during the year but the Company had not at the end of the year made any annnouncement as to its intentions.

Supplies of fresh fruit for the West Coast Pineapple Company's factory are secured from European and Indian growers cultivating lands under contracts with the Company, which provides quantities of planting materials and advises the growers in cultural methods. During the current season the Company has purchased fruit from 47 tenants of their properties, of whom 5 are Europeans, 1 Fijian and 41 Indians, and from 3 Europeans and 148 Indians growing fruit under contract. It appears likely that the bulk of the fresh fruit will, as the industry progresses, be produced by Indian tenants or free farmers under contracts.

The Company anticipates that, within the next ten years, some 15,000 to 20,000 acres of land which are at present unproductive will be producing fresh fruit for sale to the cannery.

SUBSIDIARY CROPS.

Cotton.

Due to the hurricane and floods of February and a following drought, the year was an unfortunate one for the Indian peasant farmer who is the principal cotton grower.

As noted on the Report for 1930, planting was confined to the Sea Island variety which, for many years, has not fluctuated in price to the same extent as other varieties.

Crop estimates made shortly before the hurricane indicated a crop of between 700 and 800 bales, each of 400 lb. Actually, the crop has amounted to 260 bales, each of 400 lb., of which 159 bales were ginned at the Lautoka ginnery and 101 bales at Sigatoka.

The area of cotton cropped was 822 acres by 822 growers of whom 73 were Fijians and the balance Indians.

The amount paid to growers for seed cotton was approximately £3,500.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Export.

The Colony exports small quantities of fresh pineapples, tomatoes, kumalas, Mauritius beans, citrus fruits, melons, pumpkins, and coco-nuts. New Zealand is the principal market for all of the above excepting tomatoes and Mauritius beans, which are disposed of in Australia. Chinese growers produce almost the whole of the tomato, kumala, and melon crops; Indians, Mauritius beans, pineapples, and pumpkins; and Fijians, the coconuts and citrus crops. Oranges and mandarins are not cultivated in orchards, each village having a number of trees scattered around it, most of which are, probably, self sown.

Mauritius beans are disposed of to Queensland farmers who use the plant as a green manure. With the assistance of the Government in the provision of funds for the purchase of seed, a number of coconut planters in the Savusavu area produced profitable crops of bean for export.

Food and other crops not Exported.

Large quantities of foodstuffs are produced for local consumption chiefly by Fijian, Indian, and Chinese agriculturalists. The Fijians support themselves very largely from the produce of their own lands. Their main crops are yams, taro, tapioca, kumalas, kawai, breadfruit, bananas, plantains, oranges, and mandarins. No reliable statistics are available with regard to the quantities produced for daily consumption, but under normal conditions they are sufficient to provide ample food for the Fijians and to leave a margin for sale or barter. In the same manner the Indian agriculturists produce rice, dhall, beans, and other vegetables for their own consumption and for sale in the local markets. The Chinese agriculturalists confine their efforts almost entirely to the growing of garden produce, generally in the vicinity of the ports and other European settlements. They produce sufficient vegetables and fruits to supply these communities and to leave a surplus for sale to steamships calling at the ports. Yaqona, from which the beverage known as " Kava " is made, is grown by all races and is produced in sufficient quantity to satisfy local demands.

Tobacco.

Tobacco grows luxuriantly in almost every part of the Colony and Fiji tobacco, grown and cured by Fijians and Indians, is largely used by the coloured population of the Colony. A limited number of cigars are manufactured by Indians by hand, and one or two enterprising people are now preparing and offering cut tobacco for sale in the bazaars. A number of inquiries in regard to the possibilities of the tobacco industry in the Colony were received during the year but nothing definite has eventuated.

A number of varieties of tobacco are at present undergoing trial at the Government Experimental Station at Navuso.

Maize.

Maize yields prolific crops on the rich river flats of the Colony but the demand has been limited since the introduction of mechanical traction by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and the development by the Company of the present system of tenant farmers who grow their own requirements. A small grinding mill has been erected by the Department of Agriculture with a view to encouraging the use of maize meal and inquiries have been made as to the possibilities of commencing a small export trade.

Dairying.

Dairy farming is carried on in three pastoral districts within easy distance of Suva and is confined to Europeans who are assisted by Indian labourers.

The floods which occurred during the early part of the year occasioned considerable damage and loss to farmers particularly in the Rewa district.

Dairy farmers have shared the fall in income experienced by other settlers and a number have undoubtedly found difficulty in maintaining production with butter fat prices at such low levels. At the Government-controlled factory at Tailevu the price paid for butter fat has been as low as 10d. per lb. with a loss on factory operations even at that figure.

The import duty of 4d. per lb. on Empire butter and 8d. per lb. on foreign butter was continued during the year. Local market prices in 1931 were :—

	Pats.		*Bulk.*	
	lb.		*lb.*	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
1.1.31—19.2.31	1	6	1	5½
20.2.31—16.3.31	1	7	1	6½
17.3.31—14.4.31	1	6	1	5½
15.4.31—13.5.31	1	4	1	3½
14.5.31— 1.6.31	1	5	1	4½
2.6.31—31.12.31	1	6	1	5½

The retail price of butter in Fiji is now lower than it has been for the past ten years.

Production and export figures for the last five years are :—

Year.	*Total Production.*	*Total Exports.*
	lb.	*lb.*
1927	295,677	54,208
1928	307,989	34,048
1929	392,214	79,968
1930	440,277	101,136
1931	490,055	179,760

Through the courtesy of the Fiji Pastoral Company operating at Navua, the following particulars of the improvement in the production of their herd are available for publication :—

November, 1930.	*November*, 1931.
4 cows produced over 40 lb. fat.	1 cow produced over 50 lb. fat.
37 cows produced over 30 lb. fat.	16 cows produced over 40 lb. fat.
171 cows produced over 20 lb. fat.	71 cows produced over 30 lb. fat.
202 cows produced over 10 lb. fat.	215 cows produced over 20 lb. fat.
32 cows produced over 5 lb. fat.	207 cows produced over 10 lb. fat.
1 cow produced under 5 lb. fat.	21 cows produced over 5 lb. fat.

December, 1930.	*December*, 1931.
10 cows produced over 40 lb. fat.	2 cows produced over 50 lb. fat.
68 cows produced over 30 lb. fat.	13 cows produced over 40 lb. fat.
199 cows produced over 20 lb. fat.	95 cows produced over 30 lb. fat.
184 cows produced over 10 lb. fat.	260 cows produced over 20 lb. fat.
8 cows produced under 5 lb. fat.	156 cows produced over 10 lb. fat.
	11 cows produced under 10 lb. fat.

These results indicate the improvement in yields to be anticipated from the use of pedigree bulls of high butter-fat backing, and demonstrate the value of herd testing in eliminating unprofitable animals from the herd.

Records of individual animals furnished by the same Company are as follows :—

(*a*) Grade Jersey bred in Fiji, produced 405 lbs. of butter fat in 343 days. Milked twice a day and received no hand or other special feeding. Still milking at the end of the 343 days referred to above and produced 33 lbs. of fat in the final 31 days of the period.

(*b*) Pedigree Jersey, got in New Zealand, born in Fiji. Produced 342 lbs. of butter fat in 339 days. Milked twice a day and received no hand or other special feeding. Still milking.

In view of the low prices realized for butter in the world's markets the dairy companies have given some attention to the utilization of portion of their output for the manufacture of ghee for which there is a demand amongst the Indian population of the Colony.

Live Stock.

The estimated number of horned cattle in the Colony is 57,672, and of horses 6,572.

Cattle are bred on most of the European-owned coconut estates of the Colony where they are grazed amongst the palms and thus reduce weeding costs. The market for fat stock is, however, restricted to the limited numbers required by the local butchers; consequently the profitable development of stock raising for beef purposes is impossible in the absence of a meat cannery or an export trade in beef.

Indian peasant farmers own a considerable number of the horned cattle of the Colony, almost every settler having a few milking cows and a pair of bullocks broken to the plough. Half-bred Zebu bullocks are favoured for draught purposes.

Pigs are bred on a number of the dairy farms but here again the market is limited to the local demand for pork.

The breeding of sheep is under trial on a number of coconut estates. Trouble is being experienced from intestinal parasites and the attacks of blow flies, control measures of which are being studied by the veterinary staff.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

During the year 1930 His Excellency the Governor appointed an Agricultural Advisory Committee to consider and submit recommendations for the improvement and development of agricultural methods among the Fijians and the introduction of suitable instruction on the subject in Fijian and Indian schools. Following the first report of the Committee approval was given for the extension of the terms of reference to include the question of marketing of economic crops grown by Fijians and Indians. Further, the Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native and Indian Affairs Departments, and a representative of the Methodist Mission, was requested to serve as a permanent advisory body.

Crop instruction pamphlets have been prepared for translation into Fijian and Hindustani for distribution and it is proposed to prepare articles on general agricultural methods which can form the introductory chapters of a textbook of agricultural practice suited to local conditions.

The Methodist Mission, with the financial assistance of the Government conducts an agricultural school for older boys at Navuso. Consideration has been given to the question of juvenile agricultural instruction, particularly in the provincial schools, but the Committee has had to face the fact that many of the teachers are not qualified to undertake such instruction. Consideration has also been given to the training in agricultural practice of the students attending at the Teachers' Training College at Natabua. The Government Cotton Experimental Station, where general agricultural work is also carried out, is within reach of the College by rail, but difficulties arise in providing accommodation at the farm and from the interruption of the other studies of the students. It is realized that the teachers in training should be required to attain a reasonable standard of education in agricultural practice if they are to be of any real use subsequently in the schools of the Colony.

Adult agricultural instruction falls under two heads, viz., training of well-educated young Fijians at the Government Experimental Farms at Navuso and Sigatoka for use as field instructors under either the Department of Agriculture or the Provincial Administration, and instruction of the village people at or near their towns.

During 1931, four youths were selected from the Queen Victoria School and arrangements made for their accommodation and training at the Navuso Experimental Station. They have received training in banana, rice, pineapple, grass, citrus, legume and native food crop culture. The station is under the control of an Agricultural Officer who pays bi-weekly visits. An Assistant Agricultural Officer is in residence on the farm. The students have responded splendidly to the instruction that has been given to them and already display ability in the handling of draught animals. They maintain a well stocked garden of native and European vegetables from which is drawn a considerable portion of their food. Arrangements have been made for an increase in the number of students to eight in 1932.

On the field staff of the Department there are five Native Field Assistants. These men were drafted to Navuso for a month's refresher course during the year and it is proposed to repeat this each June and December—the months during which the Fijians are relieved from communal duties and when little or no field instruction work in the districts is possible.

At the Cotton Experimental Station at Sigatoka three Fijians have been trained and are now in charge of the Fijian agricultural centres in Nadroga and Colo West Provinces which will be described later in this Report.

The native instructors referred to are under the control of the Agricultural Officer and his staff of five European Assistant Agricultural Officers, each of whom is assigned a sphere of operations. The Cotton Specialist and his Senior Field Assistant superintend the native instructors engaged on the training scheme in Nadroga and Colo West, referred to later in the Report.

The principal agricultural development amongst the Fijian people has been in the direction of the use of animal-drawn implements in the place of handtools and the primitive digging stick. This development cannot be said to have been great, due principally to the lack of means of the people. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of the Fijians for more modern methods of cultivation and the Government has fostered this desire by advancing to the more progressive people funds for the purchase of working stock and implements, repayment of advances being secured on the crops planted, and by providing trained European and Fijian instructors. Six provinces have been assisted in the matter of stock and implements.

It has been found that the Fijian takes readily to the use of implements and that he is quick to realize the advantages of up-to-date methods in agricultural practices.

In Nadroga and Colo West Provinces a more ambitious scheme of adult instruction to Fijians is being pursued. Control of the scheme was transferred from the Native to the Agricultural Department during the year, and Mr. R. R. Anson, Cotton

Specialist, placed in direct charge. In consultation with the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Anson has considerably modified the plan with the object of consolidating areas rather than giving instruction to individuals on small isolated and scattered flats. Natives of these Provinces have been provided with 32 ploughs and 36 cultivators and harrows on the terms already referred to, and approximately 50 acres are under cotton, rice, maize, and potatoes. Ample areas of land are available for an extension of the scheme. Forty-two adults are receiving instruction on four blocks of selected land and it is proposed to increase this number as soon as possible.

The object of the scheme is to teach practical farming methods on a scale suited to the needs of the Fijians and to develop a rotation of crops suitable to the land, the climate, and the people. The men under instruction receive no remuneration beyond a share of the commercial crops grown and a portion of the food crops. The consolidation of areas renders supervision simpler, cheaper, and more effective and will assist in the development of co-operative ideas amongst the people.

Fijians in the districts adjoining the areas have been quick to see the advantages of consolidated blocks and of co-operative effort with modern methods and, in two districts, have themselves commenced work on similar lines.

Generally, it may be said that considerable progress has been made during the year in the training of Fijian youths as agricultural instructors and in the training of adult Fijians in agricultural practices. There is undoubtedly a growing desire on the part of the natives to improve their cultural methods and to take advantage of the instruction which the Government is providing.

The handling, grading, and packing of produce is also receiving attention at the hands of the field staff of the Department. Improved methods of handling and packing bananas for export are already apparent even where the fruit has been packed by natives without European supervision.

Indians have, for generations, been tillers of the soil and while their methods have been primitive, they at least have been accustomed to the use of animal-drawn implements, a benefit which the Fijians have not enjoyed. In addition, Indians have in this Colony been the principal source of labour on plantations where they have, of necessity, learned the cultural methods adopted by their employers. The largest employer of labour in the Colony is the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, a well-organized undertaking employing modern agricultural methods; consequently, a large proportion of the Indian community has received a training in their employment with the Company. Although the Company does not now employ such large numbers of estate labourers, due to the development of the tenant-farmer scheme, officers of the Company continue to exercise supervision over the work of the tenants and to give instruction in agricultural practice.

Considerable room for improvement in the cultural methods practised by a section of the Indian community undoubtedly exists, but generally the Indian is far in advance of the Fijian in the matter of agricultural operations; consequently, in view of the financial position of the Colony, greater attention has been paid to the instruction of the Fijians. Agricultural officers have, however, given instruction to Indian farmers in their districts and, as already stated, crop instruction pamphlets are in course of preparation for translation into Hindustani.

Assistance to Indian farmers has taken the line of :—

(*a*) endeavouring to add to the crops which Indians can profitably produce,

(*b*) production of better yielding, quicker growing varieties of the crops already found to be suitable and profitable,

(*c*) assisting in marketing and expanding markets,

(*d*) encouragement of co-operation, and

(*e*) prevention of usury.

The Government maintains a general experimental station at Navuso, in the Rewa district, and a cotton-breeding station at Sigatoka at which general experimental work is now undertaken in addition to cotton. At the latter station efforts are being made to develop a variety of cotton for general production throughout Fiji which will, at the same time, take a somewhat special place in the market and so be able to bear the comparatively high transport charges to the overseas market.

At both stations pure line seed paddy of heavy yielding and early maturing qualities has been produced and disposed of to growers who have been advised in better methods of cultivation. In addition a number of additional crops are being grown experimentally at the stations.

Profitable marketing of crops is a source of difficulty to many of the Indian settlers of the Colony who are not engaged in sugarcane cultivation. owing to the limited market available in New Zealand for the minor crops grown by the farmer cultivating a limited area of land. The necessity of expanding markets for the produce of the Colony has been realized and endeavours have been made to develop an export trade to Western Canada. High freight rates, however, preclude entirely the profitable marketing of any but high value crops in that Dominion.

The necessity for encouraging the co-operative movement amongst Indians has received attention and a committee has been appointed to examine the question of establishing co-operative societies for the promotion of thrift and self-help amongst farmers of limited means. It is hoped to encourage the establishment, in the first instance, of a few district agricultural societies formed of persons known to one another, who are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and that these, later, will develop into co-operative societies formed for specific purposes.

The existing system of credits for Indian agriculturists outside the organization of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, is known to be defective, and a Money Lenders Bill, designed to give a greater degree of protection to the small borrower, is receiving the consideration of the Government.

Lands and Survey.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2, to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1931 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
Freeholds	1,591	531,658	1	947	532,605	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	472	15,748	111	2,666	18,414	—
Leases of Native Land	7,033	291,808	529	14,061	305,869	—
			Totals ...	...	856,888	4,523,620

Four hundred and eighty-four applications for leases of native lands aggregating 11,037 acres were received during the year. Of these 188 applications for 1,984 acres were approved and 160 applications for 6,549 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 84 per cent. of the total. Sixty-four applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 2,675 acres. Of these, 34 applications for 308 acres, were approved, and 22 for 1,673 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

Survey.

The survey staff of the Lands Department consists of six officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1931 the field staff were employed almost wholly on investigations and miscellaneous surveys including surveys of native leases, and comparatively little main traverse work was possible. Seven surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native and Crown lands.

Five hundred and three plans of surveys by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Native Lands Commission.

The native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and three native Chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission, in 1931, continued inquiries in the Province of Tailevu North (District of Bau), and also operated in the Provinces of Kadavu, Namosi, and Serua. The survey staff attached to the Commission comprises fifteen surveyors and three supernumerary officers.

Survey operations were carried out in the Provinces of Colo West, Nadi, Naitasiri, Rewa, Tailevu North, Macuata, Bua, and Cakaudrove.

Mining.

The production of metals and minerals of any description has hitherto been nil. Prospecting operations were not very active during the year and in only one case resulted in the discovery of a deposit of low-grade gold ore in respect of which three applications for gold-mining leases were lodged towards the end of the year. A "pilot" stamping and treatment plant is in course of erection for testing the commercial value of the discovery.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Colony for 1931 was £1,929,701, being £774,009 or 28.63 per cent. less than in 1930. The total value of imports was £929,514 in 1931, and £1,219,184 in 1930—a decrease of £289,670 or 23.75 per cent. in 1931. The total value of exports in 1931 amounted to £1,000,187, and in 1930 £1,484,526—a decrease of £484,339 or 32.63 per cent. in 1931. Domestic exports were £446,345 less than in 1930 or 32.38 per cent. Exports other than the produce of the Colony dropped from £106,155 in 1930 to £68,161 in 1931—a decrease of £37,994.

The total trade compared with 1930 is as follows :—

——	*Imports, per cent.*		*Exports, per cent.*		*Total trade.*	
	1930	*1931*	*1930*	*1931*	*1930*	*1931*
United Kingdom ...	30·65	27·77	30·84	12·11	30·76	19·66
Other British Possessions.	54·86	57·93	47·80	73·67	50·97	66·10
Foreign countries ...	11·64	11·59	21·10	13·91	16·84	12·77
Parcels post	2·85	2·71	—	—	1·28	1·31
Ships' stores... ...	—	—	·26	·31	·15	·16
Total	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

showing that although the percentages for the United Kingdom have decreased during the past year, the percentages of trade with the Empire as a whole have increased, and those for foreign countries have decreased.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony during the last five years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420
1929	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607
1930	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710
1931	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701

The Import Trade.

Imports dropped from £1,219,184 in 1930 to £929,514 in 1931, a decrease of £289,670. As usual the bulk of the trade was confined to comparatively few articles.

The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
Country.	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	316,824	404,718	418,570	373,694	258,171
Australia	528,740	621,396	543,963	449,845	372,284
Canada	51,105	70,262	84,822	60,076	40,134
India	45,253	44,613	69,222	43,239	32,622
New Zealand	124,775	140,697	140,418	102,339	81,470
Japan	13,454	28,811	23,576	17,135	23,909
Dutch East Indies ...	—	11,976	20,746	21,889	20,115
United States	122,470	131,994	121,441	86,224	51,789

and the proportion of total import trade done with the principal countries during the same period was as follows :—

Country.	*1927.* *Per cent.*	*1928.* *Per cent.*	*1929.* *Per cent.*	*1930.* *Per cent.*	*1931.* *Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	25·90	27·28	28·50	30·65	27·77
Australia	43·22	41·90	37·04	36·90	40·05
Canada	4·18	4·19	5·77	4·94	4·32
India	3·70	3·00	4·03	3·55	3·51
New Zealand	10·20	9·48	9·56	8·39	8·76
Japan	1·09	1·94	1·60	1·45	2·57
Dutch East Indies ...	—	·80	1·41	1·80	2·16
United States	10·02	8·90	8·20	7·06	5·57

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows :—

From United Kingdom.

	1930. *Quantity.*	*1930.* *Value.* £	*1931.* *Quantity.*	*1931.* *Value.* £
Cement and lime	49,634 cwt.	5,984	65,119 cwt.	7,619
Drapery	—	100,195	—	80,254
Hardware ...	—	41,661	—	25,803
Machinery ...	—	24,327	—	12,786
Manure	2,894 tons	24,027	2,594 tons.	18,342
Spirits	15,506 gals.	16,659	13,115 gals.	13,087

From Australia.

	1930. *Quantity.*	*1930.* *Value.* £	*1931.* *Quantity.*	*1931.* *Value.* £
Bags and sacks ...	90,991 doz.	35,324	61,733 doz.	19,678
Coal	24,890 tons.	25,690	18,989 tons.	17,097
Flour, Sharps and Pollard.	16,602,602 lb.	81,859	17,882,836 lb.	63,373
Hardware ...	—	34,533	—	27,135
Machinery ...	—	23,039	—	15,739
Rice	8,638 cwt.	5,392	62,705 cwt.	34,289
Tea	131,529 lb.	10,702	145,596 lb.	11,028
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	87,289 lb.	29,989	74,630 lb.	24,529

From Canada.

	1930. *Quantity.*	*1930.* *Value.* £	*1931.* *Quantity.*	*1931.* *Value.* £
Fish	490,714 lb.	10,781	328,514 lb.	6,766
Timber	2,576,209 sq. ft.	14,731	2,255,406 sq. ft.	11,579

From India.

	1930.		1931.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Mustard Oil ...	43,876 gals.	8,201	50,389 gals.	7,275

From New Zealand

Photographs and Films.	—	18,860	—	21,482
Tea	89,471 lb.	10,829	78,441 lb.	8,969

From Japan.

Drapery	—	15,118	—	20,201

From Dutch East Indies.

Petroleum Products and Crude Oil.	670,124 gals.	21,889	705,357 gals.	20,115

From United States.

Petroleum Products and Crude Oil.	991,913 gals.	40,265	599,819 gals.	18,533

During the four years from 1927 to 1930 the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom increased gradually, but a small decline is shown in 1931. The movement as regards imports from Australia is in an opposite direction. The percentage gradually declining until 1930, then showing in 1931 a small increase. This is partly accounted for by exchange between Australia and Fiji being more favourable for importers than that between the United Kingdom and Fiji, and also by the fact that our supplies of imports for human consumption came principally from Australia. The principal imports from the United Kingdom consist of manufactured articles, and these have decreased in value from £340,341 in 1930 to £229,073 in 1931. The importation of food and drink supplies from Australia were valued at £188,153 in 1930 and £188,143 in 1931.

The Export Trade.

Exports, the produce of the Colony, fell in value from £1,378,371 in 1930 to £932,026 in 1931. The exports of the principal products of the Colony for the past five years were as follows :—

		1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... Tons	72,752	1,125,215	120,683	1,827,095	72,275	881,263	90,979	853,833	67,937	624,310
Copra ...	... Tons	26,560	534,416	27,947	567,254	33,226	563,978	23,882	369,524	16,917	177,786
Molasses ...	... Tons	11,181	11,181	14,599	14,599	9,845	9,845	12,337	12,337	9,019	9,019
Bananas ...	Bunches	544,359	157,819	521,003	147,781	384,858	107,280	169,044	57,178	194,875	57,368
Biscuits ...	... lb.	360,387	9,334	438,211	11,306	373,793	9,507	338,892	8,456	149,630	3,325
Butter ...	... cwt.	484	3,615	303½	2,269	714	5,747	903	6,496	1,612	7,519
Cotton ...	... lb.	249,355	17,593	75,366	5,339	49,115	3,348	127,077	6,727	78,932	1,146
Vegetables	... cwt.	7,228	3,717	9,147	6,169	11,108	7,444	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988
Pines, Canned	... lb.	145,824	1,801	245,799	4,249	128,210	2,276	306,913	6,593	297,301	5,961
Pines, Fresh	... c/s.	7,021	2,124	5,667	1,703	6,170	1,848	7,633	2,296	5,607	1,510

It will be seen that the quantities and values of sugar and copra have fallen considerably, the average export values of these two commodities in 1930 being £9 7s. 8d. and £15 9s. 6d. per ton, and in 1931 £9 3s. 10d. and £10 10s. 2d. respectively. The quantity of sugar exported was 23,042 tons less than in 1930 and the value less by £229,523. The quantity of copra exported was 6,965 tons less than in 1930 and the value less by £191,738. The decrease in the quantities exported was mainly due to the damage caused to the crops by the hurricanes of November, 1930, and February, 1931, the latter hurricane being accompanied by heavy floods which caused extensive damage in the sugar-producing centres in Vitilevu. The quantity of bananas exported was 25,831 bunches in excess of the quantity exported in 1930 with an increase in value of £190. Amongst the minor domestic exports, butter and bêche-de-mer alone show increases. The remainder, notably biscuits, have decreases both in quantities and values.

The principal countries to which the products of the Colony were exported during the last two years are as follows :—

	1930.		*1931.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
To United Kingdom.				
Sugar	39,430 tons.	344,449	7,122 tons.	53,413
Copra	4,982 tons.	80,180	5,356 tons.	55,832
Cotton	127,077 lb.	6,727	78,932 lb.	1,146
Pines, canned ...	112,050 lb.	2,532	96,220 lb.	2,309
To Canada.				
Sugar	38,604 tons.	383,657	54,340 tons.	508,573
Pines, canned...	—	—	53,317 lb.	1,096
To New Zealand.				
Sugar	9,739 tons.	92,061	5,897 tons.	57,622
Bananas ...	168,846 bunches.	57,125	194,859 bunches.	57,394
Pines, canned...	193,280 lb.	4,032	146,567 lb.	2,535
To Hong Kong.				
Bêche-de-mer ...	2,667 cwt.	13,856	2,744 cwt.	15,369
To Germany.				
Copra	283 tons.	4,784	2,004 tons.	24,051
To Spain.				
Copra	2,672 tons.	39,396	4,134 tons.	41,611
To United States.				
Copra	12,934 tons.	194,637	4,880 tons.	50,635

Suggestions for the development of trade with the United Kingdom and the Empire generally.

The following points suggest themselves in connexion with the possibility of developing the trade of the Colony within the Empire.

The territories other than Fiji which come under consideration in this connexion are Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, and the United Kingdom.

Canada.—Canada has already granted the same preference to sugar from Fiji as is granted to sugar from Australia. The present state of the butter market in Canada is poor, largely owing to increased local production, but this is a condition which may change. Australian butter is granted preference in Canada which might be extended to Fiji. Fiji shipments of butter to London are handicapped to the extent of about £7 a ton on account of freights as compared with New Zealand and Australian butter, but from a freight point of view Fiji butter can compete on level terms in the Canadian market.

There are indications that Australia is more likely to be interested in the development of her export trade in canned fruits than in butter and that later on it might be possible to secure greater preference for butter imported into Canada from Fiji.

New Zealand.—Fresh Fiji produce is largely exported to New Zealand, and with the exception of tomatoes is admitted to that Dominion duty free. It would be of advantage to this Colony if it could secure a preference on Fiji canned pineapples.

Australia.—Australia provided an extensive and profitable market for Fiji bananas for many years until the import duty on Fiji bananas was raised from 2s. to 8s. per cental in 1921, a fourfold increase.

The object of this was to protect and encourage the development of the Queensland banana-growing industry. Though Fiji bananas are still preferred in the Australian markets they are now unprocurable, as the heavy Australian duty makes export from Fiji unprofitable.

India.—It has been suggested that India might provide a market for Fiji sugar and that endeavours should be made to secure preferential treatment in that market. As with Australia, Fiji buys heavily from India while exports to India are negligible. The principal imports from India are (quoting the 1930 figures) :—

	£
Bags and sacks	7,200
Ghee and Ghee substitutes	5,270
Dhall	5,180
Mustard Oil	8,200

The articles above-quoted can only be imported from India. The question of trade possibilities with India was recently referred by the Government to the Suva Chamber of Commerce which replied that after full discussion by members of the Chamber it was agreed that opportunities for increased trade with India were remote and it was regretted that they were unable to offer any advice which might serve to bring about the desired trade relations between India and Fiji.

As regards the United Kingdom, the effect of recent changes in the United Kingdom tariff must inevitably be in the direction of increasing the volume of imports into the United Kingdom from Fiji.

Imports from the United Kingdom and the British Empire, exclusive of parcels post, are 87 per cent. of the total imports, and although this percentage is large, it is considered that if copra, the principal export to foreign destinations, was all sold within the Empire, the resulting credits would cause an increase in imports from Empire sources.

An increase in the tariff preference granted by Fiji to Empire goods would also have the effect of increasing the proportion of the present import trade which comes from British countries.

The development of the trade of Fiji with the United Kingdom and the Empire generally would be advanced if the shipping facilities available for Fiji produce were improved and extended.

This development would be further assisted by the provision of improved facilities at the port of Suva in relation to the requirements of the fruit export industry, and by the institution of an export trade in chilled or frozen beef.

Butter shipped from Fiji to the United Kingdom and Canada has at present to be sent to Auckland to be re-shipped from that port. The difficulties which Fiji butter producers have to face under present shipping arrangements would be removed if it were possible to load Fiji butter into direct steamers at the port of Suva and so ship it to England without having to land, store, and re-ship in Auckland.

The possibility of securing direct steam service between Eastern Canada and Fiji by Canadian National Steamships which now proceed to New Zealand and Australia is now being investigated.

The introduction of such a service would provide Fiji with an alternative outlet for butter which could be shipped direct to Eastern Canada when market conditions were favourable. There would also be the prospect of exporting copra to New York by British steamers and getting canned pineapples from Fiji on to the markets of Eastern Canada at low freights. The shipment of raw sugar by these vessels is another possibility. Cocoa from Western Samoa destined for Canada could be picked up at Suva, provided that satisfactory arrangements for freightage from Apia, Western Samoa were arranged.

The subject of developing a beef-export industry in Fiji is also being investigated. Success depends upon satisfactory shipping arrangements and a good market. Contingent upon the provision of adequate cold storage in Suva, Canadian National Steamships would provide one service for the export of the product.

The potential market for Fiji bananas in Western Canada remains to be explored. A trial shipment forwarded by the *Aorangi* of the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line, though commercially unsuccessful, afforded information of great value, and disclosed the necessity for more satisfactory organization both in Suva and in Vancouver. The Company is co-operating in four trial shipments of 500 bunches each, commencing in May, 1932.

There would appear to be nothing to prevent successful carrying of these shipments as there is sufficient ventilated cool storage available. The Canadian Trade Commissioner has proffered his assistance to secure official reports on the fruit on arrival.

Successful development of an export trade in butter, beef, and fruit to markets other than New Zealand, will depend upon the provision of proper cold-storage facilities at the port of Suva.

The subject of improved facilities for export produce is being investigated, and draft plans for the buildings needed have been prepared for consideration.

When the financial situation permits, it would be desirable to improve the Fiji Exhibit at the Imperial Institute. The Fiji Publicity Board has already supplied the Institute with films representing the life, customs, and certain industries of the Colony.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

No change has been made during the year in the conditions governing the employment of labourers under contract of service. Agricultural labourers may be employed under contracts for a period not exceeding twelve months. Every contract for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent if the contract appears unreasonable or inequitable. The hours of labour are nine per day, from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and returning them to their villages is borne by the employer. Comprehensive safeguards are provided by law for the proper housing and treatment of labourers and employers are required to provide medical care in cases of sickness.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands he is capable of supporting himself and his family from the products of his lands. There is therefore no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The vast majority of the Fijians do support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is therefore no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. The men are employed chiefly in the loading and unloading of cargo vessels and most of them return to their villages after the work on each ship is completed. Practically all these labourers are drawn from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. There is, however, nothing to prevent then from returning to their villages and resuming their place in the native social system if they so desire. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small interinsular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed, and they are in all cases a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew. This type of work is popular with the Fijians and the wages they earn are sufficient for the support of themselves and their dependants.

The wages paid for the various classes of labour are a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law but in all contracts of service exceeding one month the District Commissioner may decline to register the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. Statistics concerning the current rate of wages are given elsewhere.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

Wages and conditions of employment remain the same as last year. As was reported, Indian contract labour is chiefly employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The employees of this Company normally total 3,000 a figure which rises to 4,000 during the crushing season. The harvesting of cane in the case of small farmers is arranged by a system of gangs, a number of farmers combining to harvest the crops of each. The Company's wages system remains the same. The standard wage for field work is 1s. 8d. a day with a bonus for a full week's work, and payment for overtime. Skilled field labour earns up to 17s. 6d. a week, and mill wages run from 10s. to 21s. a week in both cases with opportunities for earning a bonus and higher rates for special employment. The system of a concession rate to regular employees for supplies from the Company's stores continues and is worth about 1s. 4d. a week for the single man.

The standard wage for labour in Suva continues at 2s. 6d. a day and 2s. to 2s. 6d. in the districts. As was pointed out last year only a small minority of the population is entirely dependent on cash wages.

Though rice was imported for a considerable time during the year at rates below local prices, consumers only benefited to a very small extent by the reduction and the cost of living has remained about the same.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total average number of labourers skilled and unskilled employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards was 927; of these 497 were employed in the Suva district, and 430 in the various country districts. The nationalities of the labourers were as under:—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Indians.*	*Others.*
50	72	350	430	25

Of the total, more than half are road labourers principally Indians and Fijians. On the maintenance of roads Indian labour predominates whereas on new construction Fijians are in the majority.

The general rate of wages is now 2s. 6d. per day and on the West coast 2s. 3d. per day with the exception of Labasa and the new Cuvu-Yako road, on which works 2s. per day is now being paid.

Europeans are employed as road-lorry, crane, and steam-roller drivers, electricians, fitters, machinists, motor mechanics, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. per day according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths, and fitters. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above and the time is not far distant when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen :—

Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. per day depending on the degree of skill.

Boat-builders 8s. to 20s. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boatsheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. per day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 20s. per day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 12s. 6d. per week.

Painters (usually Indian), 3s. 6d. per day, leading hands up to 9s. per day, lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 11s. to 18s. per day. The average wage is £4 10s. 0d. per week.

Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. 0d. to £10 per month. Average wage £7 10s. 0d. per month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department and the conditions under which the labourers work, are practically identical with those in force outside the Department. The hours of work are 8 hours per day or 48 hours per week and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The hours worked per day and per week by the employees of the planters and Company are respectively 9 and 54.

There are no records kept by the Public Works Department as to the cost of living of the different classes of labourers employed. In any case there is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories which have each a distinct standard though the standards vary within each group in keeping with the educational and social standard attained in each individual case, and the issue is further complicated by one group or class merging into the other.

The following tables of wages paid to foremen and skilled workmen employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the Public

Works Department, and outside firms in Suva may be of interest:—

Average wages paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, per 9 hour day.

Trade.	*European.*	*Half-caste.*	*Fijian.*	*Indian.*
Carpenters	**16s. 2d.**	**8s. to 15s.**	**2s. 6d. to 5s.**	**2s. 6d. to 4s**
Dredge Masters ...	—	**10s. to 12s.**	—	**3s. 6d.**
Launch Captains ...	—	—	—	**3s. 6d.**
Launch Mates ...	—	—	—	—
Lorry Drivers... ...	—	—	—	**3s. 6d.**
Fitters	**17s. 7d.**	**10s. to 15s.**	—	—
Boat-builders... ...	—	**10s. to 14s.**	—	—
Plumbers	**17s. 7d.**	**Up to 12s.**	—	—
Blacksmiths	**17s. 7d.**	**10s. to 14s.**	—	—
Foremen	**Up to £1**	**Up to 18s.**	—	**Up to 30s. (sirdars)**
Joiners...	**See Carpenters**			
Water Fitters... ...	**17s. 7d.**	**Up to 15s.**	—	—
Turners	**17s. 7d.**	**Up to 15s.**	—	—
Motor Mechanics ...	**17s. 7d.**	**Up to 15s.**	—	—

Provision of Quarters for Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, Employees.

Europeans.—Married men are provided with unfurnished houses at rentals ranging up to 10s. weekly, with free lighting.

Unmarried men are provided with free quarters and light.

Half-castes.—As above.

All the above have the privilege of purchasing certain food-stuffs at the Company's store, but at the present time there is little advantage in so doing.

Indians.—If required, accommodation in the labour lines is provided free of cost, also medical attention and medicine.

These employees, also, are enabled to purchase rice, flour, sugar, etc., at the Company's store, but on account of lower prices ruling in other stores, they do not avail themselves of this privilege as much as formerly.

Fijians.—Same as Indians.

The hours usually worked by the Company's hands, except when "rationing" of employment is in force, consist of a 54-hour week, worked on 5½ days.

AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS WORKED IN SUVA.

1930.

	Rate per hour.	*Hours weekly.*	*Rate per week.*
CARPENTERS—			
European	2s. 9d.	48	£6 12s. 0d.
Others	2s. to 7½d.	,,	£4 16s. 0d. — £1 10s. 0d.
MECHANICS—			
European	2s. 9d. and 2s. 6d.	,,	£6 12s. 0d. and £6 0s. 0d.
Others	1s. to 9d.	,,	£2 8s. 0d. — £1 16s. 0d.
PAINTERS—			
European	2s. 9d. and 2s. 6d.	,,	£6 12s. 0d. and £6 0s. 0d.
Others	10½ to 6d.	,,	£2 2s. 0d. — £1 4s. 0d.
BOAT-BUILDERS—			
European	2s. 9d.	,,	£6 12s. 0d.
Others	1s. 4½d.	,,	£3 6s. 0d.
PLASTERERS—			
European	3s. 3d.	,,	£7 16s. 0d.
Others	8¼d. to 5¼d.	,,	£1 13s. 0d. — £1 1s. 0d.
NATIVE LABOURERS ...	5¼d. to 4½d.	,,	£1 1s. 0d. — 18s. 0d.
	1931.		
CARPENTERS—			
European	2s. 6d.	,,	£6 0s. 0d.
Others	1s. 6d. to 5¼d.	,,	£3 12s. 0d.—£1 1s. 0d.
MECHANICS—			
European	2s. 6d.	,,	£6 0s. 0d.
Others	9d.	,,	£1 16s. 0d.
PAINTERS—			
European	None employed		
Others	6¾d. to 5¼d.	,,	£1 7s. 0d.—£1 1s. 0d.
BOAT-BUILDERS—			
European	2s. 6d.	,,	£6 0s. 0d.
Others	1s. 4½d. to 1s.	,,	£3 6s. 0d.—£2 8s. 0d.
PLASTERERS—			
European	3s.	,,	£7 4s. 0d.
Others	6¾d. to 5¼d	,,	£1 7s. 0d.—£1 1s 0d.
NATIVE LABOURERS ...	4½d. to 3¾d.	,,	18s. to 15s.

ACTUAL RATES OF WAGES OF FOREMEN AND SKILLED WORKMEN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

BLACKSMITHS—	
European	1s. 10½d. per hour.
Half-caste	2s. 4½d. per hour.
Half-caste	2s. 0d. per hour.
BOAT-BUILDERS—	
Half-caste	£406 per annum.
Half-caste	14s. per day.
Half-caste	2s. 9¾d. per hour.
Half-caste	2s. 4¾d. per hour.
Fijian	1s. 9d. per hour.
CARPENTERS (FOREMAN)—	
Half-caste	£360 per annum.
CARPENTERS (LEADING)—	
European	16s. per day.
Half-caste	£25 per month.
CARPENTERS—	
European	£28 per month.
European	16s. per day.
Half-caste	£6 per month.

Carpenters—*cont.*	
Half-caste	15s. per day.
Half-caste	15s. 2d. per day.
Half-caste	6s. 8d. per day.
Rotuman	10s. per day.
Dredge Master—	
Half-caste	2s. 9d. per hour.
Fitters—	
Half-caste	2s. 6d. per hour.
Half-caste	1s. 7½d. per hour.
Joiners—	
Fijian	7s. 6d. per day.
Half-caste	6s. 8d. per day.
Lorry Drivers—	
European	18s. per day.
European	16s. 8d. per day.
Mate, M.S. ***Derek***—	
Half-caste	6s. 1⅞d. per day.
Plumbers—	
Indian	£19 per month.
Quarry Foreman—	
Half-caste	£336 per annum.
Road Overseers—	
European	£300 per annum.
European	£265 per annum.
European	£250 per annum.
Half-caste	£310 per annum.
Turner—	
European	2s. 9d. per hour.
Water-Supply Foreman—	
European	3s. 1½d. per hour or £1 5s. 0d. per day.
Water-Fitter—	
Indian	£18 10s. per month.

The following tables show the approximate cost of living with regard to certain classes of labourers, skilled workmen, clerks, and Government officials.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost of living of Fijian and Indian labourers. The tables show the cost of living of a labourer entirely dependent upon his wages and enjoying none of the privileges of an agricultural or industrial labourer under contract of service. The actual number of labourers entirely dependent upon their wages is small. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to purchase paddy and husk their own rice. In these ways they can materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are land-owners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages as they can return and live on their own lands if they so desire. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced food-stuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

In the case of Europeans, who are dependent to a considerable extent upon imported food-stuffs, the cost of living rises rapidly.

This cost naturally depends upon individual taste, but the tables given show the cost of what is necessary to ensure health and a reasonably comfortable existence.

A list of average prices of commodities in common use is attached, and the following figures give an indication of the cost of living under normal social conditions.

House Rents.—The rent of furnished houses is from £9—£10 a month, and that of unfurnished houses from £5—£7 a month. A few flats are available, the rent for these being £6—£8 a month furnished, and £3—£4 unfurnished. Boarding house charges vary from £8—£10 a month, and hotels from £12—£20 a month.

Servants and Laundry.—Indian cooks receive from £4—£6 a month, and Indian houseboys from £3—£4 a month. Nurse girls, Fijian or Indian, can be obtained from £2—£3 a month. Garden boys' wages range from £2 10s.—£3 10s. a month. Laundry costs 15s. a month for a single person and from 30s.—£2 a month for a family.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows :—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free ...	£2 2 0 a year.
Secondary	£6 0 0 a year ...	£7 10 0 a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical Fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Owing chiefly to high Customs duties, medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and Social Clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s.—£10 10s. and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s.—£4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis, golf, and cricket clubs are from £1 1s.—£2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s.—£3 3s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows :

	£
New Zealand	10—25
Australia	20—50
England	166—200

A.—COST OF LIVING OF A EUROPEAN SKILLED WORKMAN.

Wages—£17 12s. 0d. per month.

(1) *Unmarried Man.*

	£	s.	d.
Board and lodging	7	10	0
Washing	0	15	0
	8	5	0
Balance remaining for incidentals, i.e., clothing, medical attention, sport, cigarettes or tobacco, taxes	9	7	0
	£17	12	0

(2) *Married Man (No children).*

	£	s.	d.
Rent of ½ house	3	0	0
Milk (1 pint p.d.), about	0	8	0
Bread (½ 1-lb. loaf p.d.), about	0	8	0
Meat (1 lb. p.d.), about	1	0	0
Washing	0	15	0
Groceries, including vegetables	7	0	0
Lighting and firewood	1	0	0
	13	11	0
Balance remaining for incidentals as in A (1)	4	1	0
	£17	12	0

(3) *Married Man (2 children).*

	£	s.	d.
Rent of ½ house	3	0	0
Milk (2 pints p.d.), about	0	16	0
Bread (1 1-lb. loaf p.d.), about	0	16	0
Meat (1½ lb. p.d.), about	1	10	0
Groceries, including vegetables	7	0	0
Lighting and firewood	1	0	0
	14	2	0
Balance remaining for incidentals as in A (1)	3	10	0
	£17	12	0

B.—COST OF LIVING OF A EUROPEAN OFFICER ON THE CLERICAL STAFF, RECEIVING SALARY AT THE RATE OF £20 PER MONTH, OR £240 PER ANNUM.

(1) *Unmarried Officer.*

	£	s.	d.
Contributions to Widows and Orphans Pensions Scheme		16	8
Board and lodging—average cost	8	0	0
Washing		15	0
	9	11	8
Balance remaining for incidentals, i.e., clothing, sports, cigarettes, tobacco, medical attention, entertaining, amusements, taxes, etc.	10	8	4
	£20	0	0

(2) *Married Man (No children).*

	Boarding. £	s.	d.	*Renting House.* £	s.	d.
Contributions to Widows and Orphans Pensions Scheme		16	8		16	8
Cost of board and lodging ...	16	0	0			
Washing		15	0			
Cost of living, if boarding ...	£17	11	8			
Rent of house, about				6	0	0
Milk (at 1 pint p.d.) about ...					8	0
Bread (at ½ 1-lb. loaf p.d.) ...					8	0
Meat, about					15	0
Washing				1	0	0
Groceries, including vegetables				7	0	0
Costing of living if renting a house				16	7	8
Lighting				1	0	0
Balance remaining for incidentals, if lodging, as in B (1)	2	8	4			
Balance remaining, for incidentals, if renting a house, as in B (1)				2	12	4
	£20	0	0	£20	0	0

NOTE.—No provision is made for a servant. No table is given for an officer with a wife and 2 children as it is considered that it would be impossible for an officer to maintain his family in decent circumstances, on that salary, without running into debt.

C.—COST OF LIVING OF A EUROPEAN OFFICER RECEIVING SALARY AT THE RATE OF £500 PER ANNUM, OR £41 13S. 4D. PER MONTH.

(1) *Unmarried Man.*

	£	s.	d.
Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme	1	13	4
Board and lodging	9	0	0
Washing		15	0
	11	8	4
Balance remaining for incidentals, i.e., clothing, entertaining, amusement, sport, medical attention, taxes, and car, etc.	30	5	0
	£41	13	4

(2) *Married Man (No children).*

	£	s.	d.
Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme	1	13	4
Rent of house	8	0	0
Servant	4	0	0
Washing	1	10	0
Groceries	7	0	0
Milk, about		15	0
Meat, about	2	0	0
Bread, about		15	0
Light and firewood	1	10	0
Vegetables	1	0	0
	28	3	4
Balance remaining for incidentals as in C (1)	13	10	0
	£41	13	4

(3) *Married Man* (2 *children*).

	£	s.	d.
Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Scheme	1	13	4
Rent of house	9	0	0
Servant	4	0	0
Washing	1	10	0
Groceries	8	0	0
Milk	1	0	0
Meat	3	0	0
Bread	1	0	0
Light and firewood	1	10	0
Vegetables	1	0	0
	31	13	4
Balance remaining for incidentals as in C (1) including possible school fees for one or both children	10	0	0
	£41	13	4

COST OF LIVING FOR ONE WEEK OF MARRIED FIJIAN LABOURER.

Wages—15s. per week.

	s.	d.
Rent	3	0
Native food-stuffs	2	0
Tea		6
Rice	1	6
Fish	2	0
Soap		4
Kerosene		6
Sugar		6
	10	4
Balance for clothing and contingencies	4	8
	15	0

(Sometimes a number of households share a kitchen.)

COST OF LIVING FOR ONE WEEK OF A MARRIED INDIAN LABOURER.

Wages—15s. a week.

	s.	d.
Rent	3	0
Rice—3 lb. a day = 21 lb.	3	0
Dhall—12 oz. a day = 5¼ lb.	2	0
Kerosene		6
Mustard oil —1 bottle		6
Tea		6
Sugar—6 oz. a day		4
Curry (mixed spices)		2
Soap		4
Matches		1
	10	5
Balance for clothing and contingencies	4	7
	15	0

AVERAGE PRICES OF FOOD-STUFFS IN COMMON USE.

Commodity.	*Price.* s.	d.	
Arrowroot	1	3	per lb.
Blue	1	3	per doz.
Baking Powder	1	8	per lb.
Barley	1	0	„
Beans—Haricot		8	„
Bovril—4 oz.	3	3	per jar.
Brasso	2	0	per tin.
Boot Polishes		8	„
Butter	1	8	per lb.
Bacon	1	8	„
Biscuits—			
Arrowroot	1	6	„
Sao	1	6	„
Assorted plain	1	6	„
Chocolate fingers	2	9	„
Vita Wheat—Peak Frean	3	6	„
Afternoon tea	3	0	per tin.

Commodity.	*Price.* s.	d.	
Cloves	2	6	per lb.
Custard Powder	1	6	per tin.
Chutney—10 oz.	2	3	per bot.
Corn Flour		8	per lb.
Clever Mary	1	4	per tin.
Cream—8 oz. tins	1	4	,,
Candles	1	3	per lb
Curry Powder	3	0	,,
Cheese	1	2	,,
Coffee	3	3	,,
Coffee essence	2	6	per bot.
Cocoa—Bournville	2	9	per lb.
Flour		2½	,,
Flour—self-raising		6	,,
Fruits—dried—			
Sultanas		10	,,
Currants		10	,,
Apricots	1	6	,,
Peaches	1	6	,,
Pears	1	3	,,
Apples	1	6	,,
Prunes—5 lb. tins		10	,,
Prunes—bulk		9	,,
Fruits—tinned (30 oz. tins)—			
Peaches	1	2	per tin.
Pears	1	3	,,
Apricots	1	2	,,
Cherries	1	9	,,
Plums	1	3	,,
Apples	1	3	,,
Assorted	13	6	per doz.
Glaxo—3 lb. tins	6	9	per tin.
Garlic	1	0	per lb.
Golden Syrup—2 lb. tins		10	per tin.
Ginger—ground—4 oz. tins		9	,,
Honey	1	0	per lb.
Jelly crystals—assorted flavours		6	per pkt.
Jams—assorted	13	6	per doz.
	1	5	per tin.
Kerosene—4 gallon tin	11	0	,,
1 gallon tin	3	6	,,
Knife Polish		9	,,
Lard—1 lb. tins	2	0	,,

Commodity.	*Price.*		
	s.	d.	
Meats—tinned—			
Corned Beef—2 lb.	2	3	per tin.
Roast Beef—1 lb.	1	3	,,
Pork Sausages	1	6	,,
Beef Sausages	1	3	,,
Vienna Sausage	2	0	,,
Sheep Tongues	1	6	,,
Ox Tongues—2 lb.	5	0	,,
Milk	1	0	,,
Mustard—½ lb. tins	2	3	,,
Matches	1	0	per doz.
Macaroni	1	9	per tin.
Oil—Lucca—quarts	5	0	per bot.
Mustard	1	6	,,
Oatmeal—2 lb. tins	1	9	per tin.
Oats—rolled—20 oz.	1	3	,,
Pickles—assorted	1	9	per bot.
Pepper—white—6 oz. tins	1	2	per tin.
Peel—Lemon	1	9	per lb.
Raisins—1 lb. packets	1	0	per pkt.
Rice—White broken		2½	per lb.
Table		3	,,
Ground	1	0	,,
Soap—Household	1	0	per bar.
Sand Soap—imported		6	per cake.
Sunlight	1	6	per pkt.
Lifebuoy		6	,,
Sauce—Worcestershire—med.	2	9	per bot.
Salt—Coarse		2	per lb.
Cerebos	1	3	,,
Sugar—White		3	,,
Brown		2	,,
Icing—1 lb tins	1	3	per tin.
Loaf		7	per lb.
Spirits—methylated	1	8	per bot.
Suet	3	6	per tin.
Sago		5	per lb.
Starch		10	,,
Tea (bushels)	3	3	,,
No. 8	4	0	,,
Bulk (Best Ceylon)	3	0	,,
Bulk (Good Ceylon)	2	6	,,
Tapioca		6	,,
Treacle—2 lb. tins		9	each.
Vinegar	1	6	per bot.
Washing Soda		2	per lb.

PRICE LIST.

		s.	d.	
Sirloins of beef			10	
Rib, roast			7	
Rump steak		1	0	
Fillet steak		1	5	
Beef steak			8	
Gravy beef			6	
Shins of beef with bone			5	
Knuckles of veal			5	
Mince meat			6	
Tripe			6	
Suet			5	
Beef dripping			6	
Beef sausages			8	
Pork sausages		1	1	
Pickled pork		1	3	
Rolled corn beef			8	
Corned silverside			8	
Corned brisket with bone			5	
Ox tongues			8	
Pork, legs		1	3	
Pork, loins		1	2	
Pork chops		1	3	
Mutton, legs		1	3	
Mutton, shoulders		1	1	
Mutton chops		1	4	
Stewing mutton		1	0	
Mutton flap			10	
Best end neck of mutton		1	2	
Lamb, legs		1	6	
Lamb, forequarter		1	4	
Veal fillets			11	
Rolled veal			10	
Veal cutlets			9	
Ox hearts			9	
Ox tails			9	
Liver			3	
Brains		1	0	per set
Sheep kidneys			4	each
Ox kidneys		1	0	,,
Sheep heads			9	,,
Sheep frys		1	0	,,
Kippers	5 for	1	6	
Luncheon sausage		1	3	
Schnapper		1	3	

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The first school in Fiji was established in 1835 by the Methodist Mission and for many years facilities for education were provided by the missionary societies of which the Methodist Mission and the Roman Catholic Mission were the most active.

At the present time, in addition to Government the following bodies are actively engaged in education :—Methodist Mission commencing from 1835, Roman Catholic Mission from 1844, Church of England Mission from 1870, Seventh Day Adventist from 1889, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company from 1880, and local Fijian and Indian Committees.

The non-Government schools that comply with requirements as to buildings, equipment, and staff are eligible to receive grants-in-aid. £13,166 13s. 5d. was distributed among 159 schools in 1931.

The annual expenditure from Government funds, which amounted to about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, increased to £34,027 in 1927, £36,089 in 1928, £40,610 in 1929, £46,838 in 1930, and was £44,900 in 1931.

The population of Fiji is composed mainly of Fijians, Indians, and Europeans, and each race has its own schools. There are, however, six schools that enrol children of all races and in many other schools that are regarded as being for one particular race a few children of other races are enrolled.

There are twelve schools for Europeans with an enrolment of 619 boys and 610 girls. All the schools give primary education and in addition the Government Grammar schools, St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Felix College, all of which are in Suva, have secondary departments. Pupils are prepared for the Entrance Examination of the University of New Zealand, or the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Girls may take a commercial course and needlework and cookery are included in the curriculum. No provision is made for technical education.

Children living in isolated places may enrol in the correspondence classes conducted by Government.

Part of the cost of education in the Government schools at Suva and Levuka is recovered from rates. The children of ratepayers are exempt from fees in the primary department and pay a fee of £2 per term in the secondary department. The fees for children of non-ratepayers are 14s. per term in the primary and £2 10s. 0d. per term in the secondary department with a reduction of 33⅓ per cent. when two or more of the same family attend.

Government maintains hostels in connexion with the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, Suva, and Levuka Public School. The fees are £50 per annum in Suva and £30 in Levuka with reductions for two or more of a family.

The fees in non-Government schools range from 1s. a week to £2 per term.

Six Government schools, 43 assisted and 18 non-assisted schools enrol Indian pupils. During the year two new Indian schools were built by Government, only one of which was opened. The floods and hurricanes of February damaged or destroyed nearly one-fifth of the non-Government Indian schools. Most of these were repaired or rebuilt by the Indian people.

There is an increasing desire for the education of girls. Progress in this direction is retarded by the difficulty in obtaining the services of qualified women teachers.

Except in schools for all races, the medium of instruction up to Class 4 is Hindustani, although in most schools English is taught as a subject. After Class 4 English tends to become the medium of instruction although the vernacular is not neglected.

Indian boys may proceed to the Government secondary department at Natabua where they may prepare for the Entrance Examination of the University of New Zealand. Provision is made for boarders in the hostel, the fee being £24 per annum. The Marist Brothers' School in Suva prepares a few pupils for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Others can enter the Teachers' Training Schools by competitive examination. No provision has been made for technical education. Attendance is not compulsory. On 30th September, 3.542 Indian boys and 989 girls were enrolled.

The fee in the Government primary schools is 1s. a week. Most of the other schools rely on voluntary subscriptions, although the practice of charging school fees, usually 1s. a month, is growing.

For Fijians there are seven Government, 109 assisted and 93 unassisted schools. There are 7,775 Fijian boys and 5,497 girls at school. The education in these schools is primary, and much attention is paid to practical agriculture. The medium of instruction is usually Fijian up to Class 4 and English is taught as a subject. In the Government schools English tends to become the medium of instruction. These schools are residential and are partly self-supporting. All pupils engage in the activities connected with the school farm. Agriculture and wood-work are taught.

At Queen Victoria School, pupils pay a fee of £6 per annum. Half the cost of the other Government schools is recovered from provincial contributions.

As a rule no school fees are charged in non-Government schools. Apart from grants, teachers receive most of their remuneration in kind.

Fijian pupils may qualify by competitive examination for entrance to the Central Medical School, or the Teachers' Training Schools.

The Methodist Mission has made provision for technical instruction in the constructive trades at Davuilevu and in agriculture at Navuso. The latter is subsidized by Government.

There is no provision for the training of European teachers. There are four institutions for the training of non-European teachers, Government maintains one and the other three are controlled by the Methodist Mission, the Roman Catholic Mission, and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission respectively. The latter, which has restricted its activities to training teachers in the vernacular, does not receive Government assistance. No fees are charged in these institutions and in the first two, approved students receive an allowance of £6 a year from Government funds as well as free board.

The Boy Scouts' movement is still popular, particularly among the Fijians and Indians. There are 47 groups with 131 scouters and 957 scouts and cubs.

The Girl Guides Association completed its first year of activity and is supported by all races. There are 20 guiders, 213 guides, and 50 brownies. Government supported the movement by contributing £75 to the Boy Scouts' Association and £25 to the Girl Guides' Association. It also provided for transport on several occasions of scouts and guides in Government vessels.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The two inter-island subsidized services were maintained throughout the year.

The s.s. *Makatea* (814 tons) was replaced by the s.s. *Malake* (736 tons) on the service to Levuka and Taveuni, with calls at Savusavu and certain islands in the Lau Group on one journey each month, and Rabi and Rotuma on the other. In addition to the itineraries provided under contract, the s.s. *Malake* made one journey monthly to Lautoka.

By a re-arrangement of the time-table the M.S. *Sir John Forrest* (160 tons) now makes three journeys from Suva monthly instead of two. Intermediate ports between Nabouwalu and Labasa on the

Vanualevu Coast are served on the outward or inward journey alternatively, and the saving of time provides a more frequent service to the important centre of Labasa.

Vessels of the Fiji Shipping Company and various launches served the coastal ports of Vitilevu, and a subsidized launch service was in operation daily throughout the year, except on Sundays, on the Rewa River between Nausori and Vunidawa.

Nausori was served by motor car under contract from Suva daily and Korovou, Tailevu, weekly.

The principal means of external communication was provided by the R.M.S. *Aorangi* (17,491 tons) and *Niagara* (13,415 tons) of the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line, which called at Suva once in every four weeks in either direction on their voyages between Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Honolulu, and Vancouver. A subsidy at the rate of £5,000 per annum is paid to this Company.

Vessels of the Matson Navigation Company called at Suva once in each direction every three weeks on their voyages between Sydney, Suva, Honolulu, and San Francisco.

Eight steamers arrived at Suva from London via Panama during the year, at approximately six-weekly intervals and the s.s. *Ganges* arrived direct from Calcutta on the 4th September.

A four-weekly cargo service was maintained between Sydney, Lautoka, Suva and Levuka by the s.s. *Karetu*, and a four-weekly passenger and cargo service between Auckland, Suva, Tonga, and Samoa by the s.s. *Tofua*.

Wireless stations were maintained at Suva, Labasa, Taveuni, and Savusavu by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited.

In consequence of the destruction of portion of the overland line on Vitilevu by hurricane and flood in February, a temporary station was established at Lautoka during March.

Telegraphic and telephonic communication is provided between Suva, Nausori, and Vunidawa between Nausori, Korovou, Lodoni, and Levuka, and between Suva and Navua, and also between Nanukuloa, Ellington, Vaileka, Tavua, Ba, and Lautoka.

Telephone exchanges are situated at Suva, Levuka, Nausori, Davuilevu, and Navua, and there are telephone lines at Savusavu and Taveuni extending along the coast for 62 miles and 40 miles respectively.

External telegraphic communication is provided by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, Cable Company and by the station of the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, at Suva.

The following return shows the passenger carrying-capacity of the various charabancs in the Colony of Fiji for the year 1931 :—

District.	*Number of Charabancs.*	*Number of passengers allowed.*							
		8	10	12	13	15	16	17	18
Suva	47	9	—	1	—	20	1	13	3
Levuka	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Lautoka	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Rewa...	50	27	2	—	—	4	5	5	7
Ba	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Nadi...	9	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	—
Labasa	6	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	1
Ra	5	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1
Tavua	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Nadroga	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Savusavu	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Taveuni	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	135	37	2	1	7	41	8	21	18

Note.—This return does not include 41 lorries in the Colony registered for the carrying of goods and materials, and 221 private lorries.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows :—

	Miles.
Metalled	166¼
Gravelled	183¾
Motorable	109¾
Earth	19
Bridle tracks	1,595½
Total	2,074¼

At the present time some 90 miles of bridle tracks between Korovou in the Tailevu Province and Ellington in the Ra Province, and betwen Yako and Cuvu in the Nadroga Province, are being converted into motorable gravelled roads.

The roads already in existence are being improved from year to year, particularly those in the island of Vitilevu, and at the present time it is possible to motor from Suva to Wailotua on the Wainibuka River, a distance by road of some 50 miles to the north of Suva, and from Yako on the west coast of Vitilevu to Vitilevu Bay, on the north-east corner of the same island, a distance of 150 miles. When the length of road between Wailotua and Vitilevu Bay is finished, together with the section from Yako southward to Cuvu on the south-west corner of Vitilevu, it will be possible to motor without a break for nearly three-quarters of the distance round the island of Vitilevu. All bridges are now constructed in reinforced concrete with steel girders and the perfected local design is both satisfactory and cheap. The standard loading adopted for bridges is a rolling load of 10 tons.

The prime requirement in connexion with the development of the roads of the Colony is that of providing a type of surfacing whose subsequent upkeep is reasonable and in keeping with the capacity of the Colony to pay and the traffic it has to carry. Various experiments have been tried to obtain the best surface suitable to local conditions and from present indications the type of surfacing which is giving the best results is the mulch gravelled type, which provides a good running surface which can be maintained at a much lower cost than either water-bound macadam or the different kinds of bitumen or tar surfacing. This class of road is being extended wherever possible.

The only statistics available on the traffic using the roads are incorporated in the attached census return for the Suva district.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the narrow 2 foot gauge laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company on the Rewa River, along the sea coast from Sigatoka (south-west Vitilevu) to Tavua (north of Vitilevu), in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Vitilevu, and at Labasa on the island of Vanualevu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Sigatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government.

The total mileage of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles.

About 220 miles of this total length consists of the main line from Sigatoka to Tavua with the necessary branch lines.

A total of 45 locomotives are used in connexion with the transport work of this Company.

TRAFFIC CENSUS—1930 AND 1931 COMPARED.

—	1. *Suva-Rewa Road (Average of 3 pts.).*				2. *Prince's Road (Average of 2 pts.).*				3. *Suva Point Road (1 pt. only).*				4. *Depot Road (1 pt. only).*				5. *Navua Road (1 pt. only).*				6. *Suva District (Average of totals 1 to 5).*				—	
	Average for 24 hours, 1930.	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Average for 24 hours, 1930.*	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Average for 24 hours, 1930.*	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Average for 24 hours, 1930.*	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Average for 24 hours, 1930.*	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Average for 24 hours, 1930.*	*„ „ 1931.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*	*Increase per day.*	*Decrease per day.*
																									Per cent.	
Motor lorries ...	240	196	—	44	133	104	—	29	266	60	—	206	386	161	—	225	219	40	—	179	249	112	—	137	—	54·9
„ charabancs	320	369	49	—	39	89	50	—	31	42	11	—	146	47	—	99	96	34	—	62	126	116	—	10	—	8
„ cars ...	496	356	—	140	380	180	—	200	673	330	—	343	626	304	—	322	309	192	—	117	497	272	—	225	—	45·1
„ cycles ...	98	78	—	20	91	57	—	34	256	132	—	124	258	74	—	184	93	40	—	53	159	76	—	83	—	52·1
Bicycles ...	84	91	7	—	75	77	2	—	249	123	—	126	235	119	—	116	61	28	—	33	140	88	—	52	—	37·6
Horse carts ...	21	9	—	12	22	10	—	12	33	14	—	19	14	21	7	—	10	8	—	2	20	12	—	8	—	38·3
Sulkies	22	17	—	5	7	9	2	—	48	20	—	28	49	32	—	17	16	17	1	—	28	19	—	9	—	32·9
TOTALS ...	1,281	1,116	—	165	747	526	—	221	1,556	721	—	835	1,714	758	—	956	804	359	—	445	1,219	695	—	524		

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £8,780,000, while that of the latter is £6,858,113. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,093,315, and by the Bank of New Zealand £465,172.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 9,977 to 10,858 while the amount of deposits made during the year decreased from £152,386 to £142,077. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £3,536 more than the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1930.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1931, was £173,708 as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1931)	164,016	
Cash in hand	2,915	
		166,931
Decrease		6,777

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1931 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from Investments		8,402
Interest credited to depositors ...	5,422	
Salaries	1,528	
Expenses	246	7,196
Surplus		1,206

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks in the Colony.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes and British sterling coins which are the legal tender of the Colony.

The position of the Currency Notes Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£
Liabilities :—	
Notes in circulation	405,384
Assets :—	
Gold reserve (sovereigns)	83,881
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1931)	359,806
Depreciation Fund investments	39,740
	£483,427
Surplus on values at 31st December, 1931 ...	£78,043

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1931 produced a net surplus of £20,606 as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		20,626
Expenses	20	20
Surplus		£20,606

The natives refuse to recognize copper coins, and in country stores threepence is usually the lowest charge. The number of pennies in circulation is consequently small.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £166,690, and was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments and other charges ...	22,442	19	5
Works recurrent	60,641	12	6
Works extraordinary	18,149	8	3
Loan works	52,887	19	1
Miscellaneous	12,568	14	9

The corresponding figures for the last five years are given hereunder for comparison :—

	£
1927	191,325
1928	205,234
1929	242,077
1930	212,792
1931	166,690

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works, with headquarters at Suva. For general executive purposes the Colony is divided into three districts with headquarters at Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is in charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva district is the most important and is based on Walu Bay near Suva where are situated the Government Stores, the machine shops, the repair shops, the Government slipways, the garages of the Department, and the offices of the District and Mechanical Engineers. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, etc., also operates from Walu Bay. The large slipway was out of commission for about six months during the year, due to the carrying out of extensive repairs, but the small slip was fully employed, and the tonnages handled by the large and the small slips were respectively 4,769 and 1,662 tons.

Owing to the curtailment of the programme of public works more than sufficient labour was available to carry out the various works. The average number of workmen employed in the Suva district was—skilled 144; unskilled 353. The expenditure by the District and Mechanical Engineers was £53,334 3s. 2d. and £31,858 1s. 1d. respectively, giving a total expenditure for the Suva district of £85,192 4s. 3d.

Work on the trans-insular road was continued during the year, but little progress was made in the earlier months owing to shortage of the necessary constructional plant. This plant came to hand about the middle of the year and the work was then pushed forward vigorously with the result that there were about eight miles at the Tailevu or southern end and six miles at the Ellington or northern end almost completed by the end of the year.

The Cuvu-Yako road which will connect up Lautoka with the Sigatoka district was started about the middle of the year and good progress was made there, about eight miles out of the twenty-nine miles of the total length of road to be constructed being motorable by the end of the year.

During the year under review the roads on the western side of the island of Vitilevu, with the exception of Ra, were placed under the West Coast Road Board, and the Road Boards formerly functioning as separate units, viz., Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, and Colo North, were abolished. The executive functions of the Board are vested in the District Engineer, Lautoka, who is responsible for all the work undertaken and the expenditure involved.

The new system came into operation in June, 1931, and the benefits of unified control were very soon apparent, considerable economies were effected and the roads in this area by the end of the year were in a very satisfactory state notwithstanding that they had been severely damaged by the floods which accompanied the hurricane in the early part of the year.

The roads in the other parts of the group were well maintained, but, due to hurricane and flood damage, the following extra expenditure was incurred in the districts named :—

	£
Rewa	1,200
Tailevu Road	800
Lautoka	259
Nadarivatu	549
Nadi	300

These extra expenditures were offset by savings made in other districts.

The following bridges were completed during the year :—

Location.	*Length.*	*Cost.*		
	Feet.	£	s.	d.
Waidalici	222	5,244	10	5
Wainivesi	90	733	12	3
Waivou	90	853	17	6
Wainivou	30	284	12	7
Waimaro No. 1	60	697	12	9
Waimaro No. 2	60	754	16	8
Waidina	30	380	2	4
Wailotua (not quite finished) ...	140	1,494	8	0
Lawai	30	354	16	11
Voua	90	596	4	0
Nalova	30	337	5	9
		£11,731	19	2

The above-named bridges are constructed with reinforced abutments and piers, with steel girders and with either reinforced concrete or timber decking. The Waidalici bridge is the largest of this type which has been constructed by the Department : it consists of four spans, one 30 feet and three 64 feet, giving a total length of 222 feet. The width between curbs is 16 feet. The piers are each founded on a nest of 10 reinforced concrete piles 14 inches by 14 inches in section, 45 feet long, driven into the river bed. The concrete piers are built on these nests, giving a suitable support for the broad flanged I girders of 40 inches by 12 inches section, three to a span, which carry the reinforced concrete deck ; the bridge is designed to take a point load of 10 tons at the centre of the span and a uniformed load of 112 pounds to the square foot of deck area together with the weight of the structure itself. The cost of this bridge per foot run was £23 12s. 5d., a very satisfactory figure considering the conditions obtaining on site and the distance of the bridge from Suva.

The Lighthouse, which was under construction on the Emlynian shoal at the beginning of the year, was demolished by the hurricane in February, and in view of the difficulty of erecting a suitable structure on this submarine danger, it has been decided for the present not to proceed with this work.

During the year native water-supplies were installed in the following villages :—

	£	s.	d.
Namomo, Rewa	11	6	8
Biaugunu, Colo East	48	10	11
Na Korovatu, Colo East	6	19	11
Dravuni, Kadavu	250	15	6
Galoa	146	4	3
Korolevu, Colo West	61	2	0
Serua, Navua	37	1	3
Cautata	192	3	2
	£754	3	8

The provision of water-supplies to the native villages throughout the Colony is proceeding steadily from year to year with advantage to the health of the communities so provided.

The maintenance of recurrent works was carried out during the year and the roads and bridges, buildings, water-supplies, etc., were satisfactorily maintained well within the allotted funds.

The roads of the Colony comprise a total length of 2,074¼ miles made up, 362 miles metalled, 146¾ miles unmetalled, and 1,565½ miles of bridle tracks.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these Sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *Nisi Prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the Chief Justice is vested with the same powers and authorities as the Lord Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors, Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers on full pay, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen. In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to " The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by " The Civil Procedure Rules (1875) " or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890,
Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905,
Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceding the amount of £50.

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* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.
† Rules, 1906.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided* in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. A new edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

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* Ordinance 2 of 1903.

There is one Judge in the Colony, the Chief Justice, 17 Magistrates (District Commissioners), 63 Justices of the Peace, and 28 Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 35 criminal cases heard at the sessions during 1931 as against 48 for 1930; of these 3 were murder charges involving 7 accused.

Eighty-four civil cases were instituted in the Civil division and were composed as follows:—actions for recovery of debt, etc., 50; actions brought under mortgages and agreements, 10; recovery of rent, rates, etc., 5; originating summonses, 3; specific performance, 2; actions for damages, 3, and miscellaneous 11.

No civil appeals were lodged in 1931, but there were 5 criminal appeals.

In the Divorce Court 12 petitions were filed, of which 5 were European and half-caste petitioners, and 7 Indian petitioners. There were 89 petitions for divorce by native Fijians.

Sixty-six grants were made in the Probate Jurisdiction; of these 37 were grants of probate, 15 Letters of Administration, and 14 re-seals of Colonial and other grants.

Two petitions were filed in the Bankruptcy Court, both debtors being Indians.

There were no applications for admission as barristers and solicitors during the year. There are 13 European and 3 Indian practitioners in the Colony.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1926 to 1931 is given below.

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil appeal.*	*Criminal appeal.*	*Grants of probate, etc*
1926...	68	4	74	38	3	4	6	62
1927...	73	6	72	27	1	2	—	75
1928...	75	5	240	49	2	3	5	69
1929...	77	10	175	55	4	1	7	74
1930...	115	13	73	48	3	6	3	96
1931...	84	12	89	35	2	—	5	66

Police.

(*a*) *Strength.*—On 31st December, 1931, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans:—

Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd grade	8

Fijians :—	
N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	89
Indians :—	
N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	75

The headquarters of the Force are at Suva, with a central station at Totogo, and a depot at Nasova.

The Force is armed with Lee Enfield (short) rifles. Being quasi-military in organization the Constabulary is required to repress internal disturbances and defend the Colony against external aggression.

Special Constables under the command of the Inspector-General may be called upon when necessary in cases of tumult or riot.

There are nineteen detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no officers the detachments come under the supervision of District Commissioners.

(*b*) *Expenditure.*—The total cost of the Force for all services was £24,838 9s. 10d., and the cost per caput of population was 2s. 9d.

(*c*) *Crime.*—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,253, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	172
Offences against property	382
Other offences	1,699

(*d*) *Traffic.*—Motor traffic is under the control of the Constabulary. Registries exist in those districts where officers are stationed.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 1,386, being as follows :—

Motor cars for private use	539
Public motor cars	276
Lorries	397
Motor cycles	174

Two hundred and ninety-nine persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

Heavy motor vehicles exceeding 2½ tons gross weight unladen, and the use of motor vehicles having a loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited.

The existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly designed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

There are 151 light passenger buses or charabancs, registered, and of this number 108 ply for hire between Suva and Rewa. The number of passengers carried by these vehicles is determined as follows :—

½-ton vehicle, 8 passengers,
1-ton vehicle, 10 passengers,
1½-ton vehicle, 14-18 passengers.

(*e*) *Training.*—Regular parades are held throughout the year and the men are put through an annual course of musketry. The Constabulary parade for annual inspection by the Governor, and also with the Defence Force on ceremonial occasions. Such instruction as is possible is given but in the absence of a reserve it is difficult to arrange for a complete course of training for recruits.

(*f*) *Health.*—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony. The Headquarters' strength is subjected to daily medical inspection by either a Fijian or an Indian medical practitioner.

(*g*) *Transport.*—Officers are required to find their own means of transport (car, motor cycle, or horse), for which they receive allowances, but the rank and file discharge their police duties on foot.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR VARIOUS CRIMES AND OFFENCES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. Offences against the person ...	86	138	417	297
2. Praedial larceny		78	57	78
3. Malicious injuries to property ... Offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injuries to property)	222	312	247	205
4. Other crimes :— Offences against the Masters and Servants Ordinance, including Ordinances relative to Indentured Coolies. Offences against Revenue Laws, Municipal, Road and other Laws relating to the social economy of the Colony. Miscellaneous minor offences ...	4,373	4,639	4,227	4,116
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. Murder of wife or concubine ... Murder of child ... ... Murder other than wife, concubine, or child. Manslaughter	20	13	30	13
2. Attempted murder ... ... Rape ... ... Unnatural crime... ... ... Other offences against the person				
3. Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—
4. Offences against property with violence to the person. Other offences against property	17	32	24	15
5. Other crimes	21	—	5	2

Prisons.

The control of the prisons of the Colony is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons. The main prison is situated at Suva, the capital of the Colony, where the Superintendent of Prisons resides. There are in addition 17 provincial gaols where short-term prisoners are confined. District Commissioners and in some cases Constabulary officers are *ex officio* Superintendents of these provincial or local gaols. Prisoners at these gaols serve a useful purpose in maintaining and keeping the Government stations clean and tidy. Each gaol is visited weekly by a District Commissioner who hears any complaints made by prisoners and sees that the regulations are complied with. The Superintendent of Prisons makes periodical visits to out-stations and inspects all gaols throughout the Colony.

The Suva gaol is an up-to-date establishment. The buildings are of modern construction and are built of brick and concrete, thus reducing the danger of fire to a minimum. The gaol is connected with the main electrical supply of Suva. Each prisoner is provided with a separate cell, well lighted and ventilated. Although the system is penal every effort is made with available staff to instruct prisoners morally, physically, and industrially. There are actually established under competent European overseers a tinsmithy, a bakery, a sailmaking shop, a tailoring shop, a carpenter's shop, a blacksmithy, and a mat-making factory. The gaol bakery supplies all the bread required by Government institutions situated at Suva. The output for 1931 was 283,634 lb. of bread. In addition, there is a modern electrical wood-sawing plant installed at the gaol, and all schools, hospitals, and other Government institutions situated at Suva are supplied with firewood cut by prison gangs and sawn at the gaol.

Medical care of prisoners.—There is a modern fully equipped infirmary adjacent to the gaol but outside the four walls, situated in ideal surroundings complete with lawns and flower gardens and not enclosed by dismal walls. A qualified Indian Medical Practitioner is in residence, and the work is under the direct supervision of a qualified European Medical Officer who visits thrice weekly and more often when required. During the year there were 133 cases treated. There was one death. The main ailments and diseases treated were influenza, ankylostomiasis, dysentery and dyspepsia.

Marks system.—The marks system is in vogue whereby male prisoners can reduce their sentences by one-fourth by good conduct and industry, and females by one-third.

Library.—There is a library, and prisoners are provided with religious, educational, and other suitable literature.

Staff.—The gaoler and overseers are European. The subordinate staff are native Fijians and Sikhs from India.

Juveniles.—The question of dealing more effectively with juvenile delinquents is still under consideration by the Government. Various alternative schemes are being investigated, including proposals for the appointment of probation officers.

Classification.—Prisoners are classed as follows :—

First Class :—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or for failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class :—Persons awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class :—Persons under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class :—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour.

Discipline :—Discipline is well maintained by an experienced European staff. All work is directly supervised by competent European overseers under the instruction of the gaoler.

Religious teachings :—All classes of prisoners are visited by their religious teachers and ministers.

Ministers or Priests of the following denominations visit regularly :—Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Sanathan Dharm, Mohammedan, and Sikh.

CHAPTER XIV

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No change has been made during the year in the system of native administration, which is mainly conducted under the Native Regulations of 1927. These Regulations provide for the carrying out of all communal duties such as housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of food crops and maintenance of communal property, care of the sick and control of infectious diseases. They also provide for the levying of rates to defray the expenses of provincial administration, the establishment of native courts for dealing with infringements of the Regulations and offences against the native penal code, and for the constitution of Native District and Provincial Councils and the Great Council of Chiefs. The District Councils are composed of tribal chiefs and village headmen and are presided over by the Buli of the district. These Councils have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the good government and welfare of their respective districts and to elect representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. These Councils have power with regard to their respective provinces similar to those enjoyed by District Councils and also elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council is composed of native officials, Chiefs nominated by the Governor or the Secretary for Native Affairs, and representatives elected by the Provincial Councils. The Council meets every two years and advises the Governor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijian race and nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. This system of Native Councils and Native Courts provides the Fijians with a very fair measure of self-government and ensures an adequate representation of the wishes and aspirations of the natives.

The general health of the natives is under the care of the medical service, the staff of which includes 18 European medical officers and 50 native medical practitioners. In addition there is a large staff of trained European nurses in the general hospitals and 50 native obstetric nurses distributed throughout the country districts. During the year four general and 15 provincial hospitals were in operation. Native obstetric nurses are trained at the Suva and Lautoka Hospitals and native medical practitioners at the Central Medical School attached to the War Memorial Hospital, Suva. The total sum provided for medical services during the year was £76,908, to which the natives through the provincial funds contribute £4,700. In addition the natives assist materially in the building and upkeep of medical stations and dispensaries and in the transport of native medical practitioners and native nurses. In return they receive free medical and surgical treatment at all hospitals and at the hands of all European medical officers, native medical practitioners, and native obstetric nurses. The majority of the native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses are not attached to hospital but travel throughout the native villages and attend to the natives in their own homes. Apart from the general medical service the campaign for the treatment of ankylostomiasis and yaws conducted under the direction of Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation was continued during the year with marked success. A great deal of work was also done under the same direction in improving the sanitary condition of native villages and Indian settlements by the provision of borehole latrines.

Throughout the year the general health condition of the natives was good and no serious epidemic occurred. The native birth-rate was 35.33 per thousand, and the death-rate 22.22 per thousand as against 31.24 in 1930. The total increase in the population was 1,225 as against 478 in 1930. There were 1,085 marriages amongst the natives as compared with 744 during the previous year. The total native population at the end of 1931 was estimated at 93,414, which gives an increase of 9,056 since the last census of 1921.

Child welfare work, which was begun in 1927 has been continued and enlarged. At the close of the year this work was in operation under the direction of qualified European nurses in eight provinces and under the voluntary control of Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Consul, in the native towns around Suva and Nausori. In the other provinces considerable advances have been made in carrying out this work by committees of native women working in co-operation with native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses under the general supervision of the Travelling Medical Officer. The work is conducted on the most practical lines in order to train native women in their own homes in the better care of their children and to provide immediate treatment for minor ailments. The effect of this work is an undoubted improvement in the general health of the community and in the conditions under which the children are reared. The work is being adopted with a growing enthusiasm by all sections of the native community and its continuance and improvement will undoubtedly have a very beneficial effect upon the race.

All Fijian children are required, under the Native Regulations, to attend school up to the age of 14 years. No restrictions are placed upon the parents' choice of a school, which is only limited by geographical conditions and the capacity of the schools available. Statistics with regard to native education, both by Government and by the various Mission schools are given in another section of this Report. There is no doubt that the Fijians are keenly interested in the education of their children and the rapid development of educational facilities is only limited by lack of funds. The Fijians, through their provincial funds, contribute to the maintenance of the Government Provincial Schools which are under the direct control of European Headmasters. In addition, some provinces support local schools under the control of Provincial Commissioners or Rokos. Apart from the large Central Mission Schools, the district and village schools are supported partly from Government grants-in-aid and partly from local native contributions in money or kind. The policy of combining the small village schools with district or group schools has been continued. This policy, by decreasing the number of schools, makes possible the provision of more highly trained teachers and results in a higher standard of education. These schools provide an elementary education to the majority of Fijian boys and girls within easy access of their homes and without divorcing them from parental control.

An education of a more advanced type, including practical agricultural and manual instruction is provided in the Government Provincial Schools and the Central Mission Institutions. Selected pupils from these schools may continue their education at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, from which many pass to the Teachers' Training Institution, the Central Medical School, the Agricultural Department Training Centre, and the Government and Provincial services. Although funds, either Government or native, do not permit of universal education of the Fijians, there is no doubt that the improved facilities for the training of teachers and the redistribution of Government grants-in-aid is effecting a continuous improvement in the standard of native education throughout the group. The experience now being gained in the establishment and control of district and group schools will enable this system to be economically and efficiently extended to embrace the whole population when the necessary funds are available.

The vast majority of the Fijians continue to depend for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their tribal lands. Although sufficient food for their maintenance can easily be grown under their simple and time-honoured method of cultivation, their future economic development will largely depend upon their adoption of more scientific agricultural methods. In this connexion considerable progress has been made. The Government advance for the purchase of agricultural implements has been fully utilized, and in various parts of the Colony Fijians are being trained in the use of animals, agricultural implements, and scientific methods of cultivation by Government schoolmasters, officers of the Agricultural Department and officials of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. A considerable portion of the copra exported from the Colony is produced from native plantations. In the chief producing areas the natives are assisted and advised by Agricultural Officers in the best methods of increasing the yield and quality of copra, of minimizing the incidence of disease, and of planting up new areas. The personal supervision of these officers undoubtedly stimulates the production of a greater quantity and better quality of copra and increases the prosperity of the natives. The production of bananas for export is almost entirely in the hands of the natives. Under the supervision of Government Agricultural Officers considerable progress has been made in the use of animals, of implements, in the eradication of disease, and the planting up of new areas with healthy suckers, and in the general improvement of native banana plantations. The system of granting licences to banana buyers was continued throughout the year. Under this system the natives are assured of a steady market throughout the year for fruit of standard quality. The minimum prices to be paid by the buyers are fixed from time to time by a Board appointed by the Governor. These prices vary according to market conditions in New Zealand and ensure, so far as may be possible, a fair return to both producers and exporters.

The work of the Agricultural Instructor in training adult Fijians in the Sigatoka Valley in modern agricultural methods has been placed under the Agricultural Department and is now under the direct control of the officer in charge of the Government cotton farm. Over 400 acres of land in different districts have been placed at the disposal of the scheme by the native owners. The Fijians selected to cultivate these lands have been provided with implements and animals and their work is supervised by one European and two native Instructors. The main crops now under cultivation are cotton and rice, and considerable progress has been made in the establishment of these crops on the various blocks of land handed over for that purpose. The scheme provides a thorough practical training in modern methods of planting, cultivating, harvesting, and marketing profitable crops. The work is enthusiastically supported by the natives and there is every indication that its continuance will add materially to the prosperity of the natives in the districts concerned.

Rapid progress was made during the year in the extension of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's efforts to establish Fijians as cultivators of sugar-cane. Settlements of Fijian tenant farmers have been established in most of the sugar growing areas. Large areas of good cane land have been divided into 10 acre blocks and on each block a Fijian family has been settled. The necessary implements and animals have been provided by the Company and all work from the ploughing of the land to the harvesting of the crop is carried out under the expert supervision of the Company's officers. Although co-operative methods are used amongst the settlers in the heavy work of harvesting each individual receives the proceeds of the crop grown by him. This scheme provides the most finished training in the scientific cultivation of sugar-cane, including the rotation of crops and the use of artificial and green manures. Apart from the profit derived by the actual settlers the scheme provides valuable training centres in which Fijians can learn scientific methods of agriculture which they can apply on their own lands. Outside these settlements there has been a considerable increase in the production of native-grown sugar-cane and there is every indication that before long the Fijians will take a much larger share in the chief industry of the Colony.

The past year has been one which has made severe calls upon the industry and courage of the Fijians. In addition to the damage inflicted by the hurricanes and floods of 1929 the phenomenal floods and high winds experienced in the opening months of the year caused widespread havoc amongst native villages and plantations over a very large portion of the Colony. Coincident with the destruction of many of their villages and much of their food crops, the fall in the market price of natural products, occasioned by the world depression, very greatly reduced the value of such crops as remained. Despite these adverse circumstances the natives tackled the work of rehabilitating themselves with energy and cheerfulness. At the close of the year practically all the native villages had been rebuilt or repaired and native food gardens restocked. In addition, much progress had been made with the planting of crops for profit. The year has shown a definite desire on the part of a large number of Fijians to adopt more advanced methods of agriculture and to take full advantage of the instruction and assistance given by the Agricultural Officers. The growth of this spirit amongst the Fijians holds out very definite hopes for their economic development.

CHAPTER XV.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics.

According to figures given in the Registrar-General's report the total Indian population of the Colony is now calculated at 76,722, an increase of 1,605 during the year. As remarked elsewhere in this Report the increase has been reduced by about 200 owing to departures exceeding arrivals. The birth-rate fell from 36.02 per 1,000 to 33.44 and the death-rate from 12.30 to 10.19, the fall being due apparently to absence of epidemic diseases. The infant mortality fell from 9.05 to 7.68.

The number of marriages registered during the year was 954. This shows a considerable decrease on the figures for the previous year, but as was explained the large increase was due to a rush to register marriages under the new system. The marriage question is noted on elsewhere in this Report.

Economic.

It is not possible to give with any approach to accuracy, the area of agricultural land held by Indians, but according to returns of the Lands Department, some 64,000 acres are held under native leases and a further area of some 2,500 acres under Crown leases. In addition to this, an area amounting probably to 2,000 or 3,000 acres is owned by Indians as freehold and they occupy as tenants of freeholders a further area which can only be estimated very roughly, but probably amounts to about 5,000 acres. They also occupy as cane growing tenants of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, an area of some 33,000 acres. The total area held is therefore somewhat more than 110,000 acres, the great bulk of this being under cultivation.

There is little change to record in the cane growing holdings. During the year the Sugar Company leased out an additional 2,000 acres to tenant farmers principally in the Ra district, where new areas have been brought under cane for the first time towards the boundary of the Colo North district. The area held by independent growers has remained about the same, and may be put at 32,000 acres, giving a total of some 65,000 acres. The amount of cane supplied to the mills fell from 516,000 tons in 1929, and 542,882 tons in 1930, to 470,473 tons in 1931, and the value from about £400,000 in 1929, and £452,000 in 1930, to £369,211 in 1931, the average value of cane per ton falling from 16s. 8d. to 15s. 8d. Reduction in tonnage and value has been due to the damage done by the floods and hurricanes of the early part of the year and the subsequent drought. Though there has been some general falling off, the decrease was most marked in the areas supplying cane to the Ba Mill. In particular the south-west part of the Tavua area suffered severely from drought and there is some depression among the independent growers of this area who happen to be numerous. On the whole, however, it may be said that the Indian cane growers of the Colony have not suffered so severely from the hurricanes and general depression as other classes of the population.

The rice crop comes next in importance, but suffered severely from vicissitudes of season almost everywhere and there was but little surplus in the areas in which rice growing is concentrated for supply to the Rice Mill. Imports of rice rose to an abnormal figure, over 3,200 tons being imported from Rangoon and Australia. Fortunately, conditions towards the end of the year were favourable and there seems every prospect now of a good rice harvest in 1932. The whole matter of the future of the rice industry in the Colony has been recently under consideration, and, though it has been decided to keep the Rice Mill open for the milling of surplus produce during 1932, it is probable that progressive steps will be taken towards releasing the industry from Government control. As was pointed out in last year's Report, it is only a small proportion of the rice produced in the Colony which is machine milled, and the principal business of the Government Rice Mill is with a few areas in which rice growing is concentrated. The great bulk of the local rice is hand-milled either by the growers themselves or by purchasers of paddy for domestic consumption as required, and as hand-milling costs practically nothing the practice from the point of view of the small grower or consumer is of economic advantage. It remains to be seen whether the future of machine milling will lie with the big Government Mill or with small mills scattered about the Colony. In the near future at any rate there would seem little prospect of an export business and the demand for milled rice is limited. It is perhaps not improbable that a paddy distributing business will spring up supplying both the small mills and purchasers of paddy for domestic husking. Such a solution of the problem would be of advantage both to Indian producers and consumers.

The cotton industry encountered the full force of the storms and suffered still more severely. The disaster was the greater because up to the date of the hurricane prospects were promising and a crop of 700 to 800 bales was expected from 2,500 acres. Strenuous efforts were made to secure fresh late sowings, but a pronounced drought set in almost at once, and many missed the propitious period. The actual crop only amounted to 260 bales. Prospects for the 1932 crop are favourable but owing to the shortage of rice, rice sowings have received attention first and cotton sowings have been delayed. Normally it is expected that cotton and rice will balance each other. It was very unfortunate that the circumstances of the year were unfavourable to both.

With the partial failure of the rice crop and the need in a number of places for a quick growing crop, yielding a good return in the shape of food, the area under maize in the Colony during the year probably increased considerably. That maize is an important food staple with considerable elements in the rural population is undoubted, and in many places resort is made to primitive methods of grinding the grain for flour. The question whether the milling of maize for sale can be undertaken as an economic proposition has still to be investigated.

A certain amount of attention has been paid during the year to the growth of what may be termed minor crops. There can be little doubt that as the operations of the Agricultural Department extend, progress will result in a number of directions. As was remarked last year the Indian farmer left to his own resources is not unenterprising and variations in conditions have led to particular areas specializing in such produce as tobacco, peanuts, and different varieties of beans. Dhall perhaps stands in a class by itself as it is generally grown both in rotation, and on hill slopes as a food crop wherever conditions are favourable. There is certainly room for the improvement of the production of this crop as a necessary article of diet for considerable sections of the population.

With regard to minor commercial crops, there is a tendency in some parts to violent fluctuations in production. The Indian farmers round Suva for instance a few years ago concentrated largely on yaqona. The price fell seriously and yaqona has been replaced by bananas which are not easy to sell. Yaqona has risen in price and a revival of this crop may take place.

With regard to this general question of the production of what may be called minor crops, reference was made in last year's Report to their importance as conducing a variety of resource and a more balanced system of agriculture. Climate and conditions are favourable. The human agency is there, ready and able to take advantage of development. But it must be realized that the export business is not the only thing that counts, and that there is a wide margin for the reduction of imports by production for the local market.

The returns of business occupations show 778 store licences taken out as compared with 1,004 in 1930, but returns are unreliable as they are not yet standardized. The number of drivers' licences for public vehicles during the year was 775 against 784 in 1930 and 724 in 1929. Private drivers' licences rose from 435 in 1929, and 273 in 1930, to 568 in 1931. The number of cars registered as owned by Indians in 1931 was 350 against 377 in 1930. The number of motor lorries rose from 135 to 196. The majority of these are used for passenger traffic and there are some signs at present of depression in the business due to general economic depression in the Colony. The opening of the new road connexions now under construction will probably lead to extension in the traffic.

Mention was made in the Annual Report of last year of two important points affecting the economic condition of the population, to which prominent attention had been drawn in addresses to His Excellency. The question of giving relief from usurious loans was fully investigated during the year and an ordinance on the lines of the Indian Act was passed at the recent sessions of the Legislative Council with additional provision requiring the disclosure in the case of promissory notes of details of the consideration. The extent of borrowing on promissory notes is very great. Of late years some 13,000 to 15,000 forms have been sold in public offices each year. Apart from agreements to secure the Sugar Company's advances on low interest, the number of crop liens outstanding each year is probably 700 to 800 and in the area served by the Ba Mill where the practice is most common the amount secured on these was over £48,000, a good deal of this at high rates of interest. The new ordinance will enable the Courts to reopen the transaction and will incidentally facilitate steps to compound with creditors, as those endeavouring to effect this will no longer be bound by the terms of the deed. The question whether the crop liens ordinance does not give too great latitude for borrowing has still to be dealt with.

The possibility of introducing the co-operative system into the Colony was investigated by a Committee during the year and some proposals were drawn up including the skeleton framework of a possible ordinance more or less on the lines of the ordinances in force in Ceylon and other Colonies. It is clear that no great advance can be made in this direction until opportunity can be found for training some member of the official staff of the Colony in superintending the work. The Committee was convinced, however, that early steps should be taken towards the preliminary fostering of the co-operative movement and that this could suitably be done through the medium of the Agricultural Department and its dealings with groups of farmers. Group action would be fostered in this way, and later on definite co-operation could be introduced. The whole question is now under reference to the Secretary of State. There can be very little doubt that the fostering of co-operative principles, among the farming population especially, will have a very important effect on future developments. So far co-operation for public or private purposes has been more or less spasmodic. A reference to co-operation over the building of schools will be found in the educational section of this Report.

As to the question of leases and possible amendment of the terms of tenancy, the details of holdings given at the beginning of this section indicate how important this question is from the Indian point of view. Circumstances preclude the possibility of any but a small section of the Indian population becoming owners of land. The great majority must remain either tenants of native leases or of the Sugar Company. The terms of agreement for sugar growing are, on the whole, suitable to conditions, but with regard to leases of native land there is general demand for a longer lease and it would appear that Fijian owners would be ready to respond to this. Further questions arise as to compensation for ejectment at the end of the tenancy and regulation of sub-letting apart from the general question of tenant right on freehold property. The whole matter is still under investigation and the Leases Board is engaged in framing proposals for the amendment of the Native Lease Regulations.

Social and Political.

As will be seen from the figures given elsewhere the number of marriages registered shows a decline to what may, perhaps, be considered a normal figure. With over 3,750 marriages registered in the last three years the change in legal status has been very considerable. The whole question of adapting the Marriage Law to Indian conditions here is now under consideration. The Muslim section is asking for the recognition of their own system of marriage, divorce, and inheritance, and with the Hindus difficulties over the interpretation of the personal law arise. There is also the question of the validity of old unregistered customary marriages in cases where wilful abstention from compliance with formalities cannot be proved.

The Indians Orphans Ordinance is now under amendment in the light of a recent judicial decision as to the prerogatives of the Supreme Court of the Colony in respect of guardianship of minors. Occasional cases still come to light of misusage of minor girls.

The questions of adapting the Intestacy Law to the circumstances of small Indian estates and providing greater facilities for the settlement of petty civil litigation are also under consideration.

The community still remains unrepresented in the Legislative Council. The advocates of the common roll have not yet disclosed their attitude towards the ensuing elections. There is a considerable body of feeling against the boycott of the Council, but it remains to be seen whether this will be strong enough to assert itself. Apart from this, as was reported last year, there are a number of Indian representatives on various local bodies, and as the result of discussions during the year of the question of bringing the community into more direct touch with the administration an Indian District Advisory Committee has been established recently in one district as an experiment. This development promises to have important results.

Sectional friction continued to affect some portions of the community though hardly so acutely as in the previous year. Controversy between the Sanatan Dharm Association and the Arya Samaj culminated in a set debate which degenerated into an unseemly wrangle over certain questions of morality which were resented by other Hindus here and led to criticisms in the public

Press in India. It is to be hoped that there will be no recrudescence of this form of controversy.

The boy scout and girl guide movement continues to progress and some of the troops and companies have reached a high standard. The movement shows signs of having important results on relations between the different communities among the younger generation. Cricket and football are played generally throughout the Colony, and the Suva teams display considerable keenness and proficiency. The Indian (Social) Reform League in Suva is prominent in these and other forms of social activity.

Apart from the *School Journal*, edited by the Inspector of Indian Schools, the circulation of which has now reached 600, the Anglo-Hindi papers published in Suva are the *Fiji Samachar* weekly by the Indian Publishing Company and the *Vriddhi* fortnightly by the Pacific Printery. Both contain Indian and local news and comments on public affairs.

Education.

A recent survey of educational progress by the Inspector of Indian schools gives some interesting information. Taking the population of school-going age (between the ages of 6 and 15) at 16,200, 43 per cent. of the Indian boys and 11 per cent. of the girls are at school. The district figures vary from over 50 per cent. for boys and 25 per cent. for girls in Suva and Lautoka, to less than half this figure in the case of boys and very small numbers in the case of girls in some districts. According to the figures existing facilities are not fully used in some cases.

Of the 68 schools 11 are managed by the Methodist Mission, 7 by the Roman Catholics, 2 by the Seventh Day Adventists, and 2 by the Anglicans whose Indian work is confined to Vanualevu. There are 7 Government schools, including three new ones, all well filled, and 3 managed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The Arya Samaj Society maintain two girls' and one boys' schools. The rest of the schools are of the rural type.

That there has been very considerable educational effort by Indians themselves is well brought out by a statement prepared by the Inspector showing that no less than £8,000 (including £2,000 for the somewhat ambitious Nadi school) has been raised by the Indian community during the past three years for school buildings, including the rebuilding of schools destroyed by the hurricane. The Missions have spent in the period some £6,000 mainly on big buildings, but the Indian effort has been widespread over a number of districts.

An analysis of Government expenditure of all sorts on Indian education shows a net expenditure of about £9,000 during the year under report including some £4,838 on grants to aided schools.

The secondary class for Indian pupils at the Government Teachers Training School continues to do good work and the pupils are making satisfactory progress. With its atmosphere of efficiency, energy, and close touch with practical affairs the institution should have a most important effect on the educational system of the Colony.

The Inspector's report reveals that in the case of the rural schools, co-operation over management and support lag seriously behind the co-operation shown in the founding of the schools. The rural school is the symbol both of progress and of corporate action and is important from both points of view.

Experiments are now being made over the application of the Indian Rating Ordinance which it is intended to administer with some degree of "local option." This would seem preferable to the imposition of an educational rate or cess for educational purposes on the population as a whole, but difficulties arise over the question of rate-aid to schools managed by Missions and sectional societies and it may be some little time before a satisfactory system of local rates supported by local interest is developed.

The year has been noticeable for considerable development in female education. As stated above, this has been marked in the Suva district where 28 per cent. of the girls are now attending school. Purdah prejudices are practically non-existent in this country, and as was pointed out last year development of female education may play a very important part in the general progress of the Indian community. Both for boys and girls the vital importance of a curriculum in close touch with every day affairs, and not solely devoted to literary subjects, will have constantly to be kept in view.

Emigration and Repatriation.

As was reported last year, owing to slack demand for repatriation it was decided not to charter a repatriation vessel during the year under report. This decision led to important developments which may result in the establishment of a direct service between India and Fiji on a commercial basis. The proprietors of the new repatriation vessel *Ganges* after some negotiations decided to send her on an experimental voyage from Calcutta to Suva and back, carrying passengers and cargo. It was arranged that applicants with rights to free return passages should be allowed berths as ordinary passengers for return to Calcutta, the Government paying for such passages as were taken up. The Company had hoped also to attract a number of emigrants to Fiji for the outward voyage. Unfortunately economic conditions in the Colony rendered it impossible to relax the present restrictions on immigration.

The *Ganges* arrived in Fiji on 3rd September, 1931, with a clean bill of health and 164 emigrants on board, including 92 former residents of Fiji, 13 married couples, and 35 holders of permits to obtain passports. Passengers and luggage were disembarked at the Nukulau Quarantine Station and landed finally in Suva after four or five days. They had been medically examined before embarkation in Calcutta and were vaccinated and inoculated against cholera during the voyage.

The vessel attracted a good deal of attention while she was in port as she is a new vessel built on up-to-date lines and with many modern improvements. She left port for Calcutta on 7th September. The weather proved very wet, but it was found possible to pass passengers through one of the Customs sheds to the vessel which was moored alongside the wharf. Both repatriates and paying passengers were medically examined before embarkation.

The total number of passengers embarked for Calcutta was 299, including 171 repatriates, 103 for Calcutta, and 68 for Madras. The bulk of the remaining passengers were Bombay traders and their families.

Repatriation arrangements had to be made at short notice and owing to the season not being favourable for the realization of assets, the proportion of repatriates belonging to the more depressed class of the population was larger than usual and the average savings taken showed a considerable reduction. The proportion of elderly men repatriated was noticeable.

Claims for free return passages had to be dealt with under the provisions of the new ordinance. This, though extending the limited rights of some classes of emigrants did not do so completely and children's claims had to be scrutinized in detail. In a few cases the claims proved inadmissible and a charge had to be made, but as the restriction was a new one some concession was made in one or two cases. The question of checking children's claims for free return passages has recently been investigated in some detail. The indexing of the registers of births and deaths in the Registrar-General's office has now reached a stage which makes it possible to check claims much more completely than formerly.

There has been a noticeable change in emigrant traffic to and from India. Arrivals have fallen from 1,013 to 281 and departures from 799 to 470. Actually, therefore, there has been a decrease in the population from these movements of about 200.

The restriction on the immigration of single males to those who have obtained permits from Fiji still continues and immigration from the Punjab has fallen off considerably. Discrimination between applications from Bombay traders presents difficulties as there is considerable traffic both ways and individual firms seek to recruit for their business without reference to general conditions of employment. Some control and restriction seems needed in this case also. The class is enterprising and performs useful economic functions in the Colony, but it tends to monopolize certain classes of business such as tailoring, shoe-making, and laundry work to the exclusion of the Fiji-born Indians.

Of late a fair number of applications for permits for family emigration have been received. Strictly speaking, permits are not required in such cases, but they are being issued in order to obviate difficulties that may arise in India.

A second voyage of the *Ganges* direct from and to Calcutta has been arranged for April-May next, and last year's arrangements for repatriation will be repeated. Demand continues slack and very few applications have been received so far.

Storms and Floods.

The storms and floods of the early part of the year resulted in serious loss of life in the Ba valley and on the north-east of the Lautoka flats. Over 150 were drowned, swept away in the middle of the night by floods of unprecedented height. The disaster was so complete that whole families were drowned without a survivor. Much damage was done to cane in these two areas. Fortunately in the Rewa area the previous floods had given warning and numbers sought refuge early. Though rescue work was hampered by some clinging to their homes and possessions too long and proved difficult and arduous in isolated tracts at the mouth of the river, the spirit displayed by rescuers and those who succoured the refugees was most commendable. Up river a number of Indians owe their lives to Fijian rescue parties. Large numbers of refugees lower down were transported to Suva and clothed and fed by the Government, by various associations, and by private persons. The Arya Samaj Society was particularly active. The Society organized regular lorry transport and took in some hundreds in their girls' school at Samabula where they were fed from the school kitchens and those of the Sikh Gurdwara next door. Subscriptions for the relief of the distressed were raised and an appeal for clothing for those on the west coast who had lost all their possessions met with a ready response. Recovery was rapid in most cases. Conditions of climate and soil make it possible to grow catch crops at any time of the year, and with a large proportion of the flooded area under cane, the Sugar Company made itself responsible for keeping its farmers going. With the floods affecting all the big river valleys of Vitilevu, the rush to secure high ground for homesteads has been extensive. The small Indian farmer with his light homestead and possessions and his store of food in the shape of sacks of paddy is in some respects less vulnerable than his Fijian neighbour, with his heavy " bure " and his food plantations often concentrated on sloping ground on the edge of a stream.

CHAPTER XVI.

LEGISLATION.

During 1931 forty Ordinances were passed of which the following are the principal :—

The Public Holidays Ordinance.—This Ordinance provides for the celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign on the actual anniversary instead of on the succeeding Monday, as was the previous practice. It also empowers the Governor to appoint as a holiday either the Monday preceding or the Monday following the tenth day of October, and either the Monday preceding or the Monday following the anniversary of the birthday of the Heir to the Throne. The distinction in the repealed Ordinance between a public and a bank holiday is not retained in this Ordinance, as in practice no such distinction was ever drawn.

The Immigrants (Amendment) Ordinance.—It was considered to be desirable to check the entry of persons who, in the opinion of a visiting officer, were likely to become chargeable to the Colony. This purpose is effected by empowering a visiting officer to demand a deposit not exceeding fifty pounds as a condition of such persons' landing in the Colony. The object of the deposit is to enable a " destitute immigrant " to be returned to his original country without financial loss to the Government. Two years is thought to be a sufficient period in which to retain the deposit.

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance.—This Ordinance amends the Customs Ordinance, 1881, so as to cause the local law to conform to Imperial policy in regard to territorial waters and the three-mile limit.

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance.—In this Ordinance provision is made for the grant of preferential tariff rates to those countries forming part of the British Empire which afford favourable treatment to Fiji produce.

The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Additional Contributors) Ordinance.—When the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1914, was passed, officers already in the service of the Colony were given the option as to whether or not they should contribute to the fund. An opportunity was provided by the Widows' and Orphans' (Amendment) Ordinance, 1925, for those officers who had elected in 1914 not to contribute to reconsider their decisions. There are still a few officers who are desirous of contributing to the fund, although they omitted to do so in 1914 or 1925. This Ordinance empowers the Governor to grant special permission to any such officer conditional upon his paying arrears of contributions from 1st January, 1926, plus 4 per cent. compound interest.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance.—It was represented to the Government that owing to the limited wording of section 18 of the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, solicitors in Scotland have not received the same privileges as regards eligibility for call to the Fiji Bar as solicitors in England. This Ordinance brings the Fiji law in this respect into conformity with that of other Colonies. Opportunity has also been taken to remove certain archaisms from the section. This Ordinance also enables the Supereme Court to sit at Lautoka for the hearing of civil cases. It is considered to be for the general convenience that suitable civil business should, if necessary, be disposed of at Lautoka during the periodical visits of the Circuit Court.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Ordinance.—Provision is made in this Ordinance for the appointment by the Governor of not less than three persons as Censors. Section three of the Ordinance makes it an offence for any person to exhibit any film or any poster or handbill advertising any cinematographic exhibition which has not been approved by the Censors.

The Sedition Ordinance.—The Government considered that the time had arrived when it was essential to control seditious activities and the circulation of seditious publications and newspapers. The Ordinance accordingly provides for the punishment of seditious acts, the suppression of seditious publications, and the suspension of newspapers containing seditious matter.

The Advertisement Regulation Ordinance.—In order to prevent disfigurement of the landscape, it was felt that some control should be exercised over the exhibition of advertisements in the Colony. This Ordinance empowers the Governor in Council, or in the municipalities the respective Councils thereof, to make regulations for that purpose. The exhibition of liquor advertisements in public vehicles is, in the opinion of the Government, undesirable and is prohibited.

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance.—This Ordinance applies to the Colony, in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles, the following International Conventions, viz., the Convention fixing Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Industrial Employment, the Convention concerning the Night Work of Young Persons Employed in Industry, the Convention concerning the Night Work of Women Employed in Industry, and the Convention fixing the Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Employment at Sea.

PARTICULARS OF FACTORY LEGISLATION, COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS LEGISLATION, AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SICKNESS, OLD AGE, ETC.

The only legislation on any of the above subjects is the Steam Boilers Ordinance, 1915, which provides for compensation for accidents caused to persons in connexion with steam boilers. A Committee of the Executive Council, however, have at present under consideration the question of the introduction of legislation to provide for workmen's compensation generally and also for sickness insurance.

CHAPTER XVII.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	—	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	—	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	—	147,140

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced in 1930 to £187,721 and further reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931. These figures are, however, exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of the year under review at £105,247, an increase in nine years of £30,965. This Fund is earmarked for a specific purpose and the item is shown in the balance sheet both as an asset and a liability. A further item in the balance sheet is the Emergency Reserve Fund, which amounted to £30,257 at the end of 1931, a decrease in four years of £2,743.

During the year 1931 a Government Vessels Replacement Fund was opened and amounted to £1,554 at the close of the year.

The revenue for 1931 was the lowest for the past six years. In addition to the hurricane and severe floods in February, the Colony has continued to feel the effects of the world-wide trade depression, and for the second time since 1922 there was a deficit on Revenue Account, amounting to approximately £40,580, with a consequent reduction in the excess of assets over liabilities.

Debt.

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1931, was as under :—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928) ...	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929)	171,408
Total	936,408

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent. and being issued at 101.

A further loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. During that year £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. This loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Sinking Fund in connexion with the Specific Loan amounted to £14,974 at the close of the year. A Supplementary Sinking Fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £13,109. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan will first be made in 1932.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to £565,393, a decrease of £73,370 as compared with 1930. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows :—

	£
Customs	275,587
Port, wharfage, and light dues	18,284
Native taxes	11,384
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified	78,309
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes and reimbursements in aid ...	93,956
Post Office	27,899
Rent of Government property	12,805
Interest	37,167
Miscellaneous	9,998
Land sales and premia on leases	4

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties and income-tax were £20,304, £4,587, and £16,776, respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £20,576. The rate is £1 per annum on all males between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-Accountant by June of each year. Penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is, in general, on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on the value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment, provided that British Empire material and labour represent not less than 25 per cent. of the value of the goods, and that the final processes of manufacture are performed within the Empire.

On most articles the British preferential rate is 20 per cent., and the general rate 35 per cent. *ad valorem*. On imports on which a specific rate of duty is levied the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating kerosene, power kerosene, benzine, on which duties of 9d., 1s. 3d., and 5d. per gallon are levied irrespective of country of origin. There is a special concession given in respect of specified imports from certain scheduled countries which grant favourable treatment to Fiji produce. The countries at present scheduled are :—the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

The following imports, the produce of scheduled countries, are chargeable with 10 per cent. less duty than is paid under the British preferential rate :—Biscuits, bran, cheese, fish, flax and hemp, fruit (dried and fresh), golden syrup and treacle, grease, tallow and fat, hay and chaff, earthenware pipes, fancy soap, fresh vegetables. Ale and beer receive a preference of 1s. per gallon, confectionery 1½d. per lb., and soap, plain, ½d. per lb.

The following articles are free of duty under the British preferential rate :—aircraft and accessories, appliances to correct a deformity of the human body, certain specified educational material, articles imported for Boy Scout and Girl Guide Associations, bags and sacks over two bushels, butter boxes, cans partly made for use as containers of Fiji produce, sail canvas not less than British standard No. 6 in weight, casks for use as containers of Fiji produce, coal and coke, furniture imported for churches, approved infants' foods, insecticides for agricultural uses, muntz metal and copper sheathing, oakum, sulphur, tar and bitumen, tin plate, approved weed killers, galvanized wire netting not less than 4-inch mesh, galvanized plain wire not less than No. 10 British gauge, galvanized barbed wire and staples not less than No. 14 British gauge, fencing posts, gates, standards and droppers for fencing, other than ornamental iron or steel. The general rate on the above articles is 15 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries :—animals and birds, bacteriological products, ships' ballast, books, periodicals and music printed, cinematograph cameras and films for cinematographs, coco-nuts, collections of antiques for public institutions, natural history specimens, containers used in the export of products of the Colony, copra, gas and ammonia cylinders, manures, crude and diesel oil, plants and seeds, used and unused postage stamps, and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty :—agricultural implements, butter making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, if of British manufacture, and 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, if of foreign manufacture. Agricultural machines, fruit and meat canning machinery, steam boilers, oil engines, timber milling and sawing machinery and electrical machinery, pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following are the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty :—ale and beer in bottle 5s. a gallon British preferential rate, and 6s. a gallon general rate; confectionery 4½d. a lb., plus 10 per cent. and 6d. a lb., plus 25 per cent.; plain soap 1½d. a lb., and 2d. a lb.; tobacco, manufactured, 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber, rough, 2s. and 3s. per 100 superficial feet; timber, dressed, 2s. 6d. and 3s. 9d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines, still, 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines, sparkling, 10s. and 15s. a gallon.

The following articles pay 30 per cent. British preferential and 40 per cent. *ad valorem* general rates of duty :—bacon and hams, biscuits, bran, cheese, fish, flax and hemp, dried fruit, golden syrup and treacle, hay and chaff, lard and dripping, and fancy soap.

CHAPTER XVIII.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Meteorological observations were carried out during the year in the same manner as in 1930, the observations being taken twice daily for each day of the year, including week-ends and holidays. There has been no alteration or addition to the staff or in the method of observations. A hair hygrograph was purchased and will be brought into use in 1932.

The table below gives a concise summary of observations for the year :—

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT SUVA, FIJI, 1931.

Months.	*Mean Pressure in inches.*		*Air Temperature (F°).*												*Mean Vapour Pressure in Millibars.*		*Mean Relative Humidity (Saturation = 100).*		*Mean Cloud Amount (0—10).*		*Mean Bright Sunshine (Hours and Tenths).*
			Mean Dry Bulb.		*Mean Wet Bulb.*		*Means of*			*Absolute Max. and Min.*											
							Max.	*Min.*	*Mean.*	*Max.*	*Date.*	*Min.*	*Date.*								
	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*									8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*			
January ...	29·840	29·780	81·5	83·3	75·2	77·0	86·5	75·5	81·0	89	21, 23	70	1	28·5	28·9	77·8	74·7	6·4	5·7	7·8
February..	29·709	29·643	80·2	81·9	76·1	77·1	84·9	75·6	80·3	88	5, 6, 8, 13, 14	72	25	28·8	29·8	82·8	80·6	8·0	7·6	4·8
March ...	29·868	29·800	79·2	79·9	74·9	75·5	83·1	74·2	78·6	87	17	71	20,24, 27	27·7	28·3	81·4	81·4	7·1	7·2	4·6
April ...	29·900	29·818	80·1	82·3	76·1	76·9	84·7	74·7	79·7	89	9	72	23	28·9	29·2	82·7	78·1	6·7	6·2	6·1
May ...	29·964	29·883	77·0	79·2	72·6	73·9	81·9	72·1	77·0	90	7	67	9	25·5	26·4	80·4	77·3	7·7	7·1	4·1
June ...	30·007	29·927	75·1	77·2	70·8	71·4	79·7	69·6	74·7	86	17	65	20	23·9	23·7	80·5	74·4	6·7	6·9	4·1
July ...	30·007	29·928	75·6	77·8	71·2	71·7	80·3	70·6	75·5	84	9, 23, 24	65	28	24·2	23·9	79·7	73·6	6·5	6·2	5·3
August ...	29·962	29·886	74·6	76·4	69·7	71·0	79·0	69·8	74·4	88	26	62	29	22·6	23·7	77·4	76·1	6·5	7·5	4·3
September	29·994	29·920	75·6	76·9	71·0	71·5	79·3	70·2	74·7	84	11	67	16,19, 20	24·1	24·1	79·6	76·4	7·4	7·9	3·8
October ...	29·959	29·893	76·2	77·4	70·0	70·5	80·4	69·5	74·9	87	14, 20	63	24	22·4	22·6	72·9	70·7	6·7	7·2	5·1
November.	29·893	29·827	79·1	79·8	73·9	74·1	83·9	72·5	78·2	88	22	69	3, 4	26·3	26·4	77·5	76·3	6·7	7·3	6·0
December.	29·868	29·802	79·7	81·5	74·3	75·0	84·5	73·3	78·9	91	30, 31	69	3, 6, 20	26·4	26·7	77·0	72·5	6·8	6·5	7·1
Year ...	29·914	29·842	77·8	79·5	73·0	73·8	82·3	72·3	77·3	—	—	—	—	25·8	26·1	79·1	76·0	6·9	6·9	5·3

Descriptive Monthly Weather Summary.

January.—A normal month.

February.—A very unsettled month. Between 18th and 23rd a hurricane occurred which took a somewhat unusual course and was responsible for considerable damage to property and loss of life, especially on the north and north-west part of Vitilevu. The storm was centred between Samoa and Fiji on the 16th, moving slowly south-west. It passed not far to the north of Labasa at about 2 a.m., on the 18th, and reached Naviti Island, Yasawa, on the 21st, in which vicinity it remained until the afternoon of the 23rd. The storm then began to move away from the group to the north. The township of Lautoka was practically demolished by the wind, while other centres suffered severely by unprecedented floods, which occurred on all main rivers in Vitilevu, except the Navua. About 200 lives were lost. It may be of interest to mention that on the 22nd, when the barometer at Lautoka commenced to rise and the wind, which had reached hurricane force, decreased, there was no change in the wind direction—as is usual with cyclonic storms. The maximum wind velocity recorded at Suva by Dines' pressure tube anemometer was 56 m.p.h. from E x N at 19h. 25m. on the 21st.

March.—A wet month. A hurricane passed through the group between the 1st and 3rd, doing comparatively little damage. The centre passed near Penang, the west side of Levuka and through Southern Lau towards Tonga. This is believed to be the same storm that occurred in February. The maximum wind velocity recorded in Suva was 52 m.p.h. from E.S.E. at 2h. 30m. on the 2nd.

April.—The beginning and end of the month were rather wet, the middle being dry. A depression developed between Fiji and Samoa on the 5th, passing near Suva on the 7th in the form of a very small cyclone. The wind reached force 7 and is reported to have reached force 8 at various places in the group, especially Kadavu. Several banana vessels were unable to reach Suva with fruit from Kadavu in time to catch the *Tofua*.

May.—The first eight days were dry, the rest of the month being moderately wet. The trade winds blew for the greater part of the month and were quite boisterous on the 23rd and 24th.

June.—A fairly dry month. Light to gentle winds prevailed generally, except from the 7th to the 9th, when fresh trades blew. The dense fog which occurred on the morning of the 14th is very unusual for Suva.

July.—The first three days were exceptionally wet, 7.12 inches of rain being recorded out of a total of 8.70 inches. The remainder of the month was fairly dry.

August.—The first half of the month was fairly wet, the second half very dry. Heavy rain fell on the 5th. The Master of the M.V. *Sir John Forrest* reported having experienced a whirlwind at Nabouwalu, Bua, on the 6th at about 2.30 a.m., lasting about 10 minutes. The vessel was blown ashore and sustained minor damage. The wind force is estimated at force 11. Mr. L. N. Anderson, of Lekutu, reported a similar occurrence at about the same time.

September.—A normal month generally, heavy rain fell on the 6th, the rest of the month being fairly dry and cloudy. Three successive waterspouts were observed to the north-east of Suva between 11h. 10m. and 11h. 42m. on the 11th.

October.—Very heavy rain fell on the 21st. Out of a total of 3.37 inches for the day, 2.72 inches fell in one hour between 18h. 30m. and 19h. 30m.

November.—A month of thunderstorms, a severe one occurring on the 20th accompanied by heavy rain and squally winds. 1.26 inches of rain fell in 22 minutes. During the storm a horse was struck and killed by lightning on the wharf reclamation. A resident of Namoli reported a severe thunderstorm on the 20th, accompanied by torrential rain and hail. The latter phenomenon is rather unusual for Fiji.

December.—The first half of the month was wet and fairly cool, the latter being hot and dry. The average daily sunshine between the 17th and the 31st amounted to 10.5 hours.

Rainfall.

The total rainfall for the year amounted to 122.60 inches, being 5.08 inches above normal, the average annual rainfall being 117.52 inches. Rain fell on 250 days, the greatest amount being 6.56 inches on the 21st February.

96.69 inches of rain fell at Nadarivatu in February, the heaviest daily falls being as follows :—17th, 1.66 inches; 18th, 5.94 inches; 19th, 8.55 inches; 20th, 11.65 inches; 21st, 20.40 inches; 22nd, 24.20 inches; 23rd, 2.92 inches; 24th, 4.50 inches; 25th, 11.70 inches. The total for the year was 267.57 inches, being 101 per cent. above normal.

The tables below give the annual rainfall for the year at various stations in the group, together with the annual average rainfall over a period of years. It will be seen that the figures vary considerably. About half the stations in each of the wet and dry districts show a deficiency and the other half in both districts show an excess of rainfall. There are few extremes.

Rainfall, 1931—Dry Districts.

No. of years.	*Station.*	*Province.*	*Average Annual Rainfall.*	*Rainfall, 1931.*
12	Delanasau	Bua	83·76	64·18
10	Katafaga	Lau	62·48	53·27
37	Labasa	Macuata	80·26	63·97
6	Lakeba	Lau	78·42	76·05
31	Lautoka	Ba	67·91	81·09
25	Lawaqa	Nadroga	68·09	64·59
18	Makogai	Lomaiviti	73·36	90·92
36	Munia	Lau	68·94	61·93
2	Nailaga	Ba	55·10	72·46
12	Naitauba	Lau	75·69	71·51
30	Navo	Ba	63·46	45·48
4	Ngau	Lomaiviti	76·19	84·51
47	Penang	Ra	81·83	103·07
37	Rarawai	Ba	80·34	68·83
17	Richmond	Kadavu	66·21	55·53
5	Sigatoka Cotton Station.	Nadroga	63·87	59·62
2	Vaileka	Ra	71·41	99·01
5	Vunilagi	Cakaudrove	71·06	84·97
1	Vunisea	Kadavu	—	80·61

Rainfall, 1931—Wet Districts.

17	Deloi	Cakaudrove	92·83	104·50
4	Devo	Cakaudrove	94·66	105·19
7	Korovou	Tailevu	142·43	138·42
37	Levuka	Lomaiviti	89·56	88·04
12	Mua	Cakaudrove	106·61	109·43
14	Nabouwalu	Bua	103·03	108·77
31	Nadarivatu	Colo North	132·52	267·57
15	Naitonitoni	Serua	125·32	110·72
1	Nasinu	Rewa	—	135·59
37	Nausori	Tailevu	114·34	122·03
27	Rabi	Cakaudrove	137·52	104·38
27	Rotuma	Rotuma	138·94	115·14
16	Salialevu	Cakaudrove	208·47	194·24
47	Suva	Rewa	117·51	122·60
1	Tamanua	Serua	—	128·25
25	Valeci	Cakaudrove	102·48	90·83
12	Vuna	Cakaudrove	118·41	127·48
19	Vunidawa	Colo East	141·73	177·25
52	Wainunu	Bua	147·14	128·50
25	Waiyevo	Cakaudrove	96·59	113·13

A few rain gauges were damaged or washed away during the February floods and the figures given by the observers are estimates only.

Wireless and Weather.

Hitherto no mention has been made of the wireless weather reporting scheme. This scheme was brought into operation in October, 1923, starting with nine stations. Weather reports taken at 2030 and 0330 G.M.T. civil are broadcast by Apia and Suva at fixed times during the hurricane season, whilst the same procedure is followed in the non-hurricane season, except that the 2030 report is omitted.

Weather reports are also received from ships within wireless range and any report of special interest is re-broadcast if received within time.

Storm warnings are also broadcast when necessary, giving the approximate position of its centre and the direction in which it is moving. All weather reports received both from ships and stations are entered in the register and filed for reference. At the present time there are 26 stations in the scheme, but there is one, namely, Vaitupu, that cannot actually be classed thus, as its weather reports are broadcast by a private wireless set. These reports are picked up in Suva by a local amateur.

It will therefore be seen that the South Western Pacific is fairly well served with meteorological information, but there is still room for much improvement. The establishment of wireless weather-reporting stations at Rotuma and Wallis Island would be a welcome improvement and would simplify forecasting considerably. This would be of special benefit to Fiji, as hurricanes likely to affect these islands very often affect Rotuma or Wallis Island first, and regular meteorological information by wireless would give Fiji at least two days' warning of an approaching hurricane.

CHAPTER XIX.

GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir A. G. Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., left Suva on 23rd June, 1931, in H.M.S. *Laburnum* on a tour of certain of the islands which are under his jurisdiction as High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. In the course of his tour His Excellency visited the British Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, Ocean Island, and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. His Excellency returned to the Colony on 26th August, 1931, after an absence of a little over two months.

During his absence, the Honourable A. W. Seymour, V.D., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government of the Colony as Governor's Deputy.

During the month of August, 1931, Suva was visited by H.M.S. *Diomede*, H.M.S. *Veronica*, and H.M.S. *Laburnum* of the New Zealand Squadron of the British Navy, and in September, 1931, by H.M.A.S. *Canberra* of the Australian Squadron.

Three sessions of the Legislative Council were held during 1931, in February, June, and October. Among the more important matters dealt with by the Council were the following :—

(*a*) Approval was given to the amendment of the Customs Tariff, whereby certain countries which give favourable treatment to Fiji produce were accorded special low Customs rates in respect of specified articles. The countries at present scheduled to receive this special preferential treatment are the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

(*b*) At the June session an ordinance was passed giving the Government wide powers to control seditious publications, including the power to suspend the publication of a newspaper adjudged to have published seditious matter.

(*c*) At the October session of the Council approval was given to the Estimates for 1932. As finally passed the budget showed an estimated revenue of £544,878 and an approved expenditure of £544,689, giving a surplus of £189. The expenditure has been reduced to a figure £77,852 below the approved expenditure for 1931, and £104,644 below that of 1930.

(*d*) A motion for the reduction of the salaries of the Civil Servants of the Colony was introduced at the October session, and was supported by all the European Elected Members, but was defeated by the votes of the official majority and of the Fijian Nominated Members. At the request of the European Elected Members, the matter was submitted to the Secretary of State for decision. The Secretary of State decided that the salaries should not be reduced, but that the question should, however, be reconsidered when the revenue figures for the first six months of 1932 become available.

An outstanding event of the year was the hurricane which occurred at the end of February. Many cyclonic storms of greater severity have been experienced in the history of the Colony, but on this occasion the centre of the cyclone hovered for such an abnormally lengthy period close to the north of the group that the resulting continuous heavy rains produced the most disastrous and extensive floods ever recorded in Fiji. Very great damage was caused to buildings, tramways, bridges, roads, and crops, and approximately 200 persons were killed, including four Europeans. The majority of these deaths were due to drowning.

There have been no serious epidemics during the year. During the first half of the year there was a slight epidemic of Shiga dysentery, and a mild epidemic of influenza during the latter half of the year.

There has been a general tendency towards decreases in declared values of imported articles, but this has been counteracted in the case of imports from the United Kingdom and other countries by the adverse rate of exchange. Importers from Australia on the other hand have had the advantage of a depreciated currency, and this is reflected by an increased percentage of imports in 1931 as compared with 1930.

As will be seen from the returns, only 11.59 per cent. of imports were bought outside the Empire, and there is an increasing tendency to buy in the United Kingdom, and other parts of the Empire. This tendency is being strengthened since the United Kingdom went off the gold standard.

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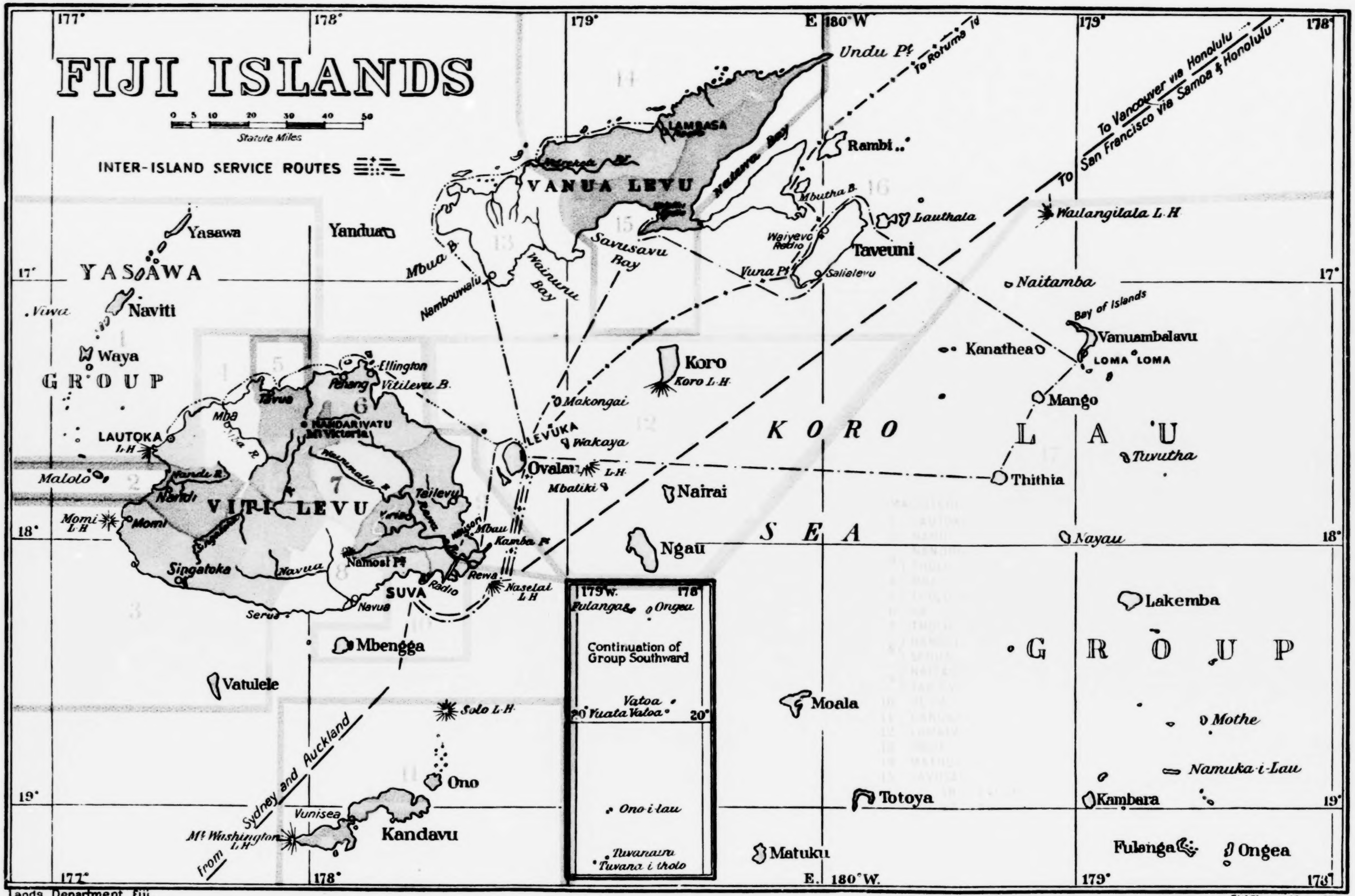
FIJI ISLANDS
Statute Miles
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INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
177°
178°
179°
E 180° W
179°
178°
17°
18°
19°
20°
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
Yandua
Naviti
Viwa
Waya
LAUTOKA L.H.
Malolo
Momi L.H.
Momi
Nandi
VITI LEVU
Singatoka
Navua
Namosi Pt
SUVA
Radio
Rewa
Naselai L.H.
Serua
Mba
Tavua
Penang
Ellington
Vitilevu B.
NANDARIVATU
Mt Victoria
Tailevu
Mbau
Kamba Pt
LEVUKA
Ovalau
L.H.
Wakaya
Mbatiki
Makongai
Nairai
Ngau
Koro
Koro L.H.
VANUA LEVU
LAMBASA
Mbua B.
Nambouwalu
Wainunu Bay
Savusavu Bay
Natewa Bay
Undu Pt
To Rotuma Id
Rambi
Mbutha B.
Waiyevo Radio
Vuna Pt
Salialevu
Taveuni
Lauthala
Wailangilala L.H.
Naitamba
To Vancouver via Honolulu
To San Francisco via Samoa & Honolulu
Bay of Islands
Vanuambalavu
LOMA LOMA
Kanathea
Mango
Tuvutha
Thithia
KORO SEA
LAU GROUP
Nayau
Lakemba
Mothe
Namuka i Lau
Kambara
Fulanga
Ongea
Totoya
Matuku
Moala
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H.
Ono
Kandavu
Vunisea
Mt Washington L.H.
from Sydney and Auckland
179 W.
178
Fulanga
Ongea
Continuation of Group Southward
Vatoa
Vuata Vatoa
Ono i Lau
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo

Lands Department, Fiji.

E.W.Simm - May 1927

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FIJI, 1932

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The Fijian Group, which lies between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east, comprises about 250 islands, of which about 80 are inhabited. The largest island is Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanuaievu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate is cool for the tropics, and the country is remarkably free from zymotic and endemic diseases. Malarial fevers have never been met with.

The highest temperature at Suva in 1931 was 92 degrees on 19th February and 25th October, and the lowest 65 degrees on 19th June, 20th July, 17th August and 9th September. The total rainfall was 121.69 inches. The average annual rainfall is 117.41 inches. There is a great variety of temperature and climate to be found in the Group. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, hurricanes and cyclonic storms occasionally occur, December to March being the months of greatest frequency.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under investigation by research students; in the meantime the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several States which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Cakaudrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power.

Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society; and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required ", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on 12th October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton, caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, three other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the rate-payers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance, 1928, gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board, whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are two proclaimed townships in the Colony, Nausori in the district of Rewa and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In each of the country districts there is a Road Board, under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner, who is responsible for the maintenance of the roads in that district. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number nearly 79,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of Fiji on 31st December, 1932, was as follows :—

Europeans 4,863; Half-castes 3,548; Fijians 94,976; Polynesians 1,889; Indians 78,975; Rotumans 2,457; Chinese

1,460; Others 1,230; making a total population of 189,398. Of this total, Fijians comprised 50.15 per cent., Indians 41.70 per cent., and Europeans 2.57 per cent.

The estimated population shows an increase of 32,132 since the census of 1921, or an aggregate rate of increase of 20.43 per cent. The European population again shows an estimated decrease, being 195 less than the estimated total for 1931.

On 31st December, 1932, it was estimated that there were 25.47 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population is confined almost wholly to the island of Rotuma, in which the native population amounts to 175.50 to the square mile.

There were 6,712 births registered during the year, which is an increase of 415 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1926 to 1932:—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Europeans ...	18·16	24·78	17·42	19·88	16·94	17·20	16·04
Half-castes ...	31·91	23·08	32·56	35·96	30·30	43·82	38·61
Fijians ...	33·95	32·53	33·36	31·91	36·43	35·34	34·32
Rotumans ...	48·95	50·57	52·21	50·75	54·91	46·95	39·47
Indians ...	32·65	27·72	34·90	34·86	36·02	33·45	38·44

The Rotuman birth-rate is below normal, while the Indian birth-rate shows a substantial increase on previous years.

There were 2,542 deaths registered during the year, which is 503 less than in 1931. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1926 to 1932:—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Europeans ...	9·32	9·60	7·62	8·46	9·45	9·09	6·79
Half-castes ...	12·69	7·37	9·39	9·44	14·70	11·03	9·86
Fijians ...	23·09	22·98	24·95	24·66	31·24	22·22	17·88
Rotumans ...	29·29	36·29	51·77	48·10	27·03	14·54	19·12
Indians ...	8·26	9·42	10·80	9·06	12·30	10·19	8·40

The following table shows the deaths under one year per thousand births:—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Indians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Total.*
12·82	51·09	1[illegible]·00	51·71	72·16	75·36

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1926 to 1932:—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Europeans ...	**38**	**34**	**47**	**46**	**33**	**38**	**32**
Half-castes ...	**14**	**16**	**41**	**28**	**21**	**18**	**23**
Fijians ...	**708**	**760**	**906**	**973**	**744**	**1,085**	**766**
Rotumans ...	**37**	**28**	**11**	**27**	**15**	**29**	**25**
Indians ...	**195**	**254**	**276**	**879**	**1,926**	**954**	**911**

The marriage-rate per thousand of the population is set out in the following table:—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Indians.*	*Total.*
6·58	6·48	8·07	11·54	10·17	9·51

A return of the population and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	*Whites.*		*Coloured Population.*		*Total Population.*	*Persons employed in*			*Births.*		*Marriages.*	*Deaths.*	
	Males.	*Females.*	*Males.*	*Females.*		*Agriculture.*	*Manufactures and Industrial.*	*Professional and Commercial.*	*Number*	*Rate per 1,000.*		*Number*	*Rate per 1,000.*
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.													
Europeans ... Fiji ...	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878	412	379	1,905	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	23	7	—	—									
Half-castes ... Fiji ...	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781	144	395	583	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	—	—	29	23									
Fijians	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—	—	—
Indians	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—	—	—
‡Polynesians	—	—	1,271	293	1,564	335	501	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese	—	—	845	65	910	129	92	399	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	431	358	789	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1932.													
Europeans	2,511	2,352	—	—	4,863	—	—	—	78	16·04	32	33	6·79
Half-castes	—	—	1,817	1,731	3,548	—	—	—	137	38·61	23	35	9·86
Fijians	—	—	48,708	46,268	94,976	—	—	—	3,260	34·32	766	1,698	17·88
‡Polynesians	—	—	1,316	573	1,889	—	—	—	33	17·46	9	33	17·46
Indians	—	—	46,707	32,268	78,975	—	—	—	3,036	38·44	911	663	8·40
Rotumans (Rotuma)	—	—	1,221	1,236	2,457	—	—	—	97	39·47	25	47	19·12
Chinese	—	—	1,333	127	1,460	—	—	—	17	11·64	—	7	4·79
Others	—	—	806	424	1,230	—	—	—	54	43·9	26	26	21·13
Totals	2,511	2,352	101,908	82,627	189,398	—	—	—	6,712	35·44	1,792	2,542	13·42

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

‡ "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

POPULATION OF SUVA MUNICIPALITY.

Class of Population.	*Population, Census* 1921.	*Estimated Population, 31st December.* 1932.
Europeans	1,436	1,900
Half-castes	395	900
Fijians	872	1,500
Indians	3,040	5,000
Chinese	278	350
Others	385	1,550
	6,406	11,200

POPULATION OF SUVA SUBURBS.

Europeans	317	700
Half-castes	189	350
Fijians	1,109	2,000
Indians	4,206	5,500
Chinese	56	70
Others	250	300
	6,127	8,920
Total—Suva and Suburbs	12,533	20,120

POPULATION OF LEVUKA MUNICIPALITY AND SUBURBS.

Europeans	414	196
Half-castes	411	620
Fijians	250	250
Indians	1,016	403
Chinese	102	150
Others	286	76
	2,479	1,695

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the Police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) and of Indian and Polynesian immigrants is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1932:—

EMIGRATION—1932.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,824	4,863	37.300
Indians	47	78,975	.595
Chinese	87	1,460	5.958
Others	152	1,230	12.357

IMMIGRATION—1932.

Class	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,737	4,863	35.718
Indians	65	78,975	.823
Chinese	94	1,460	6.438
Others	142	1,230	11.544

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of sixteen Medical Officers under the direct control of the Chief Medical Officer, and an Inspecting Medical Officer whose services are only partly devoted to medical work. A qualified bacteriologist is stationed in Suva and has charge of a bacteriological laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. In Suva, the principal port of entry, the Medical Officer of Health is responsible for quarantine and sanitation, assisted by a staff of three European, one Fijian, and two Indian Sanitary Inspectors. During the year, pratique was granted to 141 vessels entering the port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 3,558 passengers, 5,314 members of crews, and 260 labourers.

In the country districts the control of health matters and sanitation is in the hands of 14 District Medical Officers, 56 Native Medical Practitioners, and 4 Indian Medical Practitioners. There is also one European Sanitary Inspector, who is at present seconded to the Rockefeller Foundation as officer in charge of the hookworm campaign, and six Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

A very complete system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 120 beds, an operating theatre and X-ray plant, and caters for all classes of the community. During the year 2,277 persons were admitted, and the daily average number of in-patients was 95.20. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The Australian Nursing Association accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examinations. The medical and nursing staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron, five trained Sisters, and thirteen European Probationer Nurses. In addition there are 24 native nurses in training.

The Methodist Mission conduct a hospital for Indian women at Ba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Ba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are 15 provincial hospitals and some 29 dispensaries in the Colony where Fijians and Indians may obtain free medical treatment.

The Central Medical School, erected four years ago, is situated in the Suva hospital grounds, and includes lecture-rooms, library, museum, laboratory, dissecting rooms, and two separate dormitories. The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and maintenance of the School. The teaching staff now consists of a whole-time tutor and fourteen honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students, who are all boarders, include 19 Fijians, 1 Indian, 4 Tongans, 4 Samoans, 4 Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, 1 Cook Islander, 3 Solomon Islanders, and 1 from the New Hebrides, making a total of 37. Dormitory accommodation is available for a maximum number of 40 students.

The syllabus of instruction, which now covers a period of four years, is divided into three sections : the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy and physiology ; and the third section of two and a-half years for medicine, surgery, midwifery, etc.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as medical practitioners, and they are then given appointments in a country district, or are attached to a hospital under a European Medical Officer. A subordinate Medical Service has thus been created, consisting of 56 Native Medical Practitioners and five Indian Medical Practitioners. In addition, there are now nineteen similarly qualified native medical practitioners in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Central Medical School took the place of the former Fiji Medical School, at which from the years 1888 to 1928 Fijian students received training in medicine.

The problem of leprosy, a disease which is very prevalent in the Pacific Islands, continues to be very thoroughly dealt with in Fiji. On the island of Makogai there is a most modern and up-to-date Leper Hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Lay Superintendent, and thirteen European and nine Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, irrespective of race, and lepers are also received for treatment from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients, while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by a Nursing Sister.

Admissions during 1932	58
Repatriation of Indians, 1932	42
Conditional discharges	17
Deaths	17
Number of patients at the end of 1932	476

Since 1911 there have been 1,640 admissions, 233 conditional discharges, 41 re-admissions (many of which have been on account of trophic ulceration rather than for reactivation of the disease), and 10 cases have been re-discharged.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of the Secretary for Native Affairs, has been firmly established in the Colony, and, since its inception in 1927, has progressed steadily. The Inspecting Medical Officer, during his tours of inspection, has done much to organize and establish Child Welfare Committees in the more remote parts of the Colony, and has greatly stimulated native interest in the scheme. In practically every village of the Colony Child Welfare Committees have been established, each of which is responsible to the Child Welfare worker in charge of the district. There are four trained European Nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by ten specially trained Native Nurses. Infant mortality among Fijian children under the age of five years during the years 1931 and 1932 is as follows:—

	1931.	1932.
Under one month	107	90
Over one month, under one year	267	236
Over one year, under five years	251	140

Health and Sanitation.

Taken on the whole the health of the Colony during the year has been excellent. Cases of dengue fever occurred in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters of the year, and mild dysentery during the 3rd and 4th quarters. There has been a marked decrease in the number of cases of dysentery and enteric occurring in the Suva area; this is proof of the satisfactory results of the extensive sanitary campaign which was inaugurated in 1931.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—The decrease in the number of cases occurring this year, as reflected in the figures gives below, is striking.

Total incidence for the Colony :—	*Cases.*
1931	787
1932	209
Decrease	578

Distribution :—	*1st half* 1932.	*2nd half* 1932.
Urban Suva	3	nil
Rural Suva	11	3
Other districts	91	101

Racial incidence :—

Europeans 3, Half-castes 4, Fijians 46, Indians 155, Others 1.

It is worthy of note that of the 209 cases reported this year, only 8 per cent. of the cases occurred within the Suva area.

Typhoid.—Most of the cases occurred between January to May, inclusive. There were 136 cases reported during the year, being an increase of 29 cases as compared with last year. Of the cases reported three occurred within the Suva Urban area and three within the Suva Rural area, the remainder being reported from different parts of the Colony.

Diphtheria.—Eight cases were reported, including one from the Suva area.

Influenza.—There were 582 cases of influenza recorded during the year. Severe pulmonary complications were few, and the death-rate was small.

Trachoma.—The percentage incidence of this disease for the Colony has not been so far definitely settled. This disease has been notifiable since 1929, and powers to isolate have been provided. The chronic nature of the disease, the prolonged and tedious course of treatment—usually a year—and the hardship inflicted on patients through being kept away from their homes for such a length of time are factors against isolation. With regard to the racial incidence, over 75 per cent. of cases of eye trouble occur among the Fijians. Whether or not all these cases are pure trachoma is a matter of doubt, as there is a great deal of chronic conjunctivitis among the Fijian race due to their habit of sitting at night in their houses, which are generally full of smoke from their fires.

Epidemic Dropsy.—This disease occurred during the last quarter of the year in Suva and the adjoining districts of Nausori and Navua, and is now under investigation. The evidence to date, though by no means conclusive, is suggestive that a certain brand of mustard oil is associated with the outbreak.

Miscellaneous.

Dairies and milk, and food control.—There were 23 dairies registered within the rural district of Suva during the year. All premises were inspected bi-monthly by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health, and, with few exceptions where minor alterations and improvements were ordered, were maintained in a satisfactory condition. As required by the by-laws made under the Public Health Ordinance, the Veterinary Officers of the Department of Agriculture tested all dairy herds for tuberculosis. Of the 626 head of cattle tested, 28 only gave positive or doubtful results.

Other inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health included the inspection of slaughter-houses and restaurants. There were five slaughter-houses registered during the year in the Suva area and the district of Rewa, while one application to erect a slaughter-house was received and approved. Of the total number of carcases inspected, 4,042 were passed and 94 were condemned as unfit for human consumption. All slaughter-houses were visited daily.

Sanitary Campaign.—In May, 1932, the Rockefeller Foundation, in co-operation with the Government of Fiji, commenced an intensive campaign for the installation of latrines of the bore-hole type throughout the Colony.

In 1928, experiments were undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation with this type of latrine in the District of Rewa, where some 1,400 bore-holes were put in use among Fijians and Indians. Towards the end of 1930, and during the early months of 1931, the Foundation co-operated with the Central Board of Health and installed 1,815 bore-holes in Suva and the nearby district of Navua. This new type of latrine has proved satisfactory, both with Fijians and Indians, and the work of the compaign during the year has progressed most satisfactorily, over 2,000 bore-holes being installed.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

(a) *In the Urban District of Suva.*—The Municipal Council is the Local Authority for the area which it controls. The Medical Officer of Health is not a member of the Local Authority, but he attends its meetings in an advisory capacity. The sanitary duties in the urban area are carried out by the Council's two Sanitary Inspectors, and as neither of these officers possesses a sanitary qualification, the Council has been asked to appoint a qualified Sanitary Inspector.

For sanitary purposes the town of Suva is divided into an inner or business area, and an outer or residential area, and effect is gradually being given to the intention that all buildings within the business area shall be constructed of concrete. Within the town boundary there is no marked tendency towards segregation on racial lines, and the Administration has never attempted to bring it about. The type of dwelling varies with the means of its occupants. The labouring classes are usually drawn from the Native and Indian communities, and a proportion of them live in tenement dwellings, but many Indians, who obtain their employment in Suva, live in separate houses on settlements surrounding the town area. The most important of such settlements is situated at Samabula, and the Government has now in hand a town planning scheme for this area which will definitely improve the lay-out, access, and general amenities of the settlement.

A marked improvement has taken place in Suva during the last two years in the state of the latrines, bathrooms, and kitchens of some of the poorer dwellings; and the re-laying of all the main sewers, which is now in progress, is a work of the highest importance. The cleanliness of the interiors of dwellings occupied by the Fijians in the urban area has been greatly improved as a result of the work of a local Fijian Child Welfare Committee, which was recently appointed. It is probably due to the economic depression that progress under the building regulations which came into force in 1930 has been so slow, and that the attention of the sanitary officers is still so actively engaged with such problems as over-crowding, structural defects of buildings, and defective surface drains.

(b) *Housing in the rural areas.*—In the native villages there is a progressive tendency towards the replacement of the old type of native house by dwellings either partly or wholly constructed of timber and iron. This development is taking place more rapidly in the coastal and island villages, and is not so much imitative as indicative of a desire on the part of the Fijians to spare themselves the labour that has to be expended annually in maintaining their grass houses in an efficient state of repair. The new type of dwelling is inartistic and warmer than the old, but it is weatherproof, and when properly ventilated it can even be comfortable. The Government has given a great deal of consideration to the question of meeting the demand of the Fijians for a more modern type of dwelling, but so far it has not been possible to design a suitable type which can be constructed economically. The standard of Indian housing is steadily improving. The ambition of Indian farmers is to accumulate, as quickly as possible, sufficient means to provide themselves with suitable homes, and the old type of grass hut is slowly disappearing. The tendency of the Indian population to accumulate in crowded settlements at the industrial centres has been met by the establishment of proclaimed townships in two instances, and other places will be dealt with in the same manner as occasion arises.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Sugar.

The production of sugar-cane in 1932 benefited by exceptionally favourable climatic conditions, and also, to some extent, by the stimulating effect of the deposits of silt left by the record floods in the sugar-growing districts of Vitilevu in 1931. The 1932 crop constituted a record for the Colony.

Exports of sugar during the year amounted to 131,302 tons, which were shipped to the following destinations :—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	70,984
Canada	54,781
New Zealand and South Pacific Islands	5,537
	131,302

Exports during the past five years have been :—

	Tons.
1928	120,683
1929	72,274
1930	90,979
1931	67,937
1932	131,302

Severe floods and storms were responsible for the small quantities of sugar exported during the years 1929-1931.

Sugar production continues to be the principal industry of the Colony, and Indians continue to produce the major portion of the cane crop, although there has been a great increase in the number of Fijian growers during the past few years. As a result of the annual competitions amongst farmers which are conducted by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, a distinct improvement has been effected in the field methods of the growers as well as in the quality and condition of their live-stock.

Copra.

Exports of copra during the year amounted to 15,076 tons, as compared with 17,318 tons in 1931, 23,882 tons in 1930, and 32,226 tons in 1929. Plantations were not in full production during the greater part of the year owing to the storms in 1931, and the low market prices undoubtedly discouraged many of the native growers from making copra. Production is organized on a system of individual estates of varying sizes owned by Europeans and on a system of communal ownership by Fijians. It is estimated that the native growers produce approximately one-half of the total exports of copra from the Colony.

World market prices, while low, showed a slight improvement during the early part of the year, the highest price realized being £17 5s. in February and the lowest £12 15s. in June. Coconut estates which grazed cattle with a view to keeping down undergrowth and providing meat rations for labourers found difficulty in disposing of their fat stock during the year, as the market is limited to the local butcheries, with occasional sales to natives for feasts.

Labour costs were approximately on the same level as in 1931, Fijians being employed under annual contracts to a large extent, the employers being required to provide accommodation, clothing, and rations for the men and to pay recruiting fees.

An experimental copra drier was erected at the native town of Vuna, on the Island of Taveuni, in the early part of the year and has since been in continuous use by the native growers in the neighbourhood. The drier has operated satisfactorily and has resulted in a higher proportion of dried copra to green than was previously obtained by the primitive methods employed by the Fijians, who are now most enthusiastic in their support of the drier. It is estimated that the drier is capable of turning out one ton of dried copra a day. The drier was under the personal supervision of a European officer of the Coconut Committee for most of the year, and accurate records of temperatures, etc., were made.

The operations of the Coconut Committee were continued during the year, the local programme being confined to the distribution of colonies of the parasite for the control of the spathe borer beetle *Tirathaba trichogramme.* Mr. T. H. C. Taylor, one of the Entomologists employed by the Committee, who proceeded to Java at the end of 1931, continued his investigations of control methods for the leaf mining beetle *Promecotheca Recheii* during the year. Satisfactory progress has been made and it is anticipated that the parasites will be introduced from Java in the early part of 1933.

The Government has continued to take steps towards the improvement of the quality of copra produced by Fijian growers, but it will be difficult to make much progress in this direction until some inexpensive type of drier suitable for use by natives in the wet areas of the Colony has been evolved.

Bananas.

The total exports of bananas made during the year amounted to 175,145 cases in comparison with 97,783 cases in 1931, and the increase would have been considerably greater had market prices in New Zealand proved remunerative. From the beginning of the year the returns from bananas in the New Zealand market decreased considerably and serious losses were made by exporters. In view of the falling market, the price paid to the growers, who are principally Fijians, was reduced by the Government for a period of five months to the lowest figure which has obtained for a considerable time past, viz., 1s. 6d. per case. The reasons for the fall in values in New Zealand may be said to be the general depression and the development of the banana export trade in the adjoining Groups in the Pacific such as Samoa and Tonga. These territories have in the past relied principally upon their copra exports, but the fall in the price of copra necessitated an expansion of the agricultural activities of the people, with the result that the New Zealand market became over-supplied with bananas. As a result of a visit of the Director of Agriculture to New Zealand in March, an agreement was reached between the countries exporting bananas and the Government of New Zealand for a mutual restriction of exports under which the Colony of Fiji was permitted to export not more than 12,000 cases per four-weekly period for the months October to April inclusive and 9,600 cases for the months May to September, inclusive. The action taken has had the effect of improving prices but has resulted in considerable quantities of fruit being left in the hands of the growers. The Government, by Regulations under the Fruit Export Ordinance, 1906, made provision for the allotment of quotas to areas and individuals. The method adopted was briefly as follows :—

A Banana Licence Board was appointed to control the export trade. Records which had been kept by the Department of Agriculture for the previous 18 months of the areas in which bananas were produced formed the basis for the allotment of quotas to the different banana-growing districts of the Colony. Similarly records of shipments made by individual shippers during a similar period were used for the allocation of quotas to the different exporters, due consideration being given to growers who desired to export their own fruit. On the recommendation of the Banana Licence Board, an endeavour was made to allot 50 per cent. of the total quantity to the islands of Vitilevu and Beqa, the principal banana-growing areas, and to allot 75 per cent. of the total quantity to Fijian growers.

In spite of the fact the control of the banana export trade had not previously been attempted and that for some time the method was not fully understood by the native growers, the procedure has worked smoothly. It was impossible, in the first quotas, to give the native growers the full 75 per cent. of the total quota, but their percentage has been increased with succeeding quotas and it is anticipated that early in 1933 three-quarters of the bananas exported will have been grown by Fijians. Prices to the growers increased from 1s. 6d. a case, when the quota system was introduced, to 3s. 6d. a case at the end of the year, but a decline is inevitable early in 1933, as the New Zealand market is then well supplied with temperate zone fruits.

Following representations made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the Ottawa Conference, the Australian Government undertook to admit 40,000 centals a year of Fiji bananas at a duty of 2s. 6d. per cental. The first shipment to Australia was made on the 23rd December. The Director of Agriculture accompanied the shipment in order to observe conditions under which the fruit was carried and to enquire into market possibilities generally in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Rice.

Climatic conditions were exceptionally favourable to the production of rice, and the quantity offered to the Government rice mill constituted a record in the history of that undertaking.

Reliable information in regard to the quantity of paddy produced is not obtainable, but it is estimated that at least 10,000 tons are produced annually of which about 10 per cent. is offered for sale to the Government mill. Almost the whole of the paddy production of the Colony is in the hands of East Indians, who cultivate small areas. Fijians are however beginning to show interest in this crop, and the areas of native-grown paddy are steadily increasing.

Normally the production of paddy is not sufficient to meet the rice consumption of the Colony. The 1932 crop however was exceptionally heavy, and it is anticipated that importations during 1933 will be unnecessary.

A new development in the rice industry is the erection of small power-driven mills by private enterprise, principally Indian, in the rice-growing districts. At the end of the year, 15 small mills were operating with a total capacity of 30 tons of rice daily.

Pineapples.

West Coast Pines Limited continued operations during the year, the pack amounting to 5,150 cases. As in past years, the bulk of the fruit supplied to this cannery was produced by European and Indian tenants on the Company's lands and by independent growers under contracts with the cannery.

The Fiji Pineapple Company's cannery at Waidau was closed, and it is understood that efforts were made to dispose of the assets of the Company.

The Hawaiian Pineapple Company decided not to proceed with the development of the lands over which they held an option, and experimental work ceased during the year. It is understood that world economic conditions influenced the Company in deciding not to operate in Fiji, although the experiments made had demonstrated the suitability of the country for pineapple culture.

Dairying.

The three dairying undertakings in the Colony suffered severely from the heavy fall in market values for butter which towards the end of the year necessitated a reduction to 8d. per lb. in butter-fat prices at the Government-controlled butter factory at Tailevu. The low returns obtained by suppliers of butter-fat have handicapped the maintenance and development of farms, and the farmers have experienced considerable difficulty in continuing operations at the reduced prices paid for their product.

The industry continued to receive the protection of an import duty of 4d. per lb. on Empire butter and 8d. per lb. on foreign butter throughout the year. Local market prices during the year were :—

	Per lb.
	s. d.
January to November	1 6
December	1 4

Production and export figures for the past five years were :—

Year.	*Total Production.* *lb.*	*Total Exports.* *lb.*
1928	307,989	34,048
1929	392,214	79,968
1930	440,277	101,136
1931	490,055	180,544
1932	543,815	271,152

The production of ghee, for which there is a demand amongst the Indian population of the Colony, has continued to receive the attention of the industry, some 20,000 lb. of butter-fat being converted into ghee during the year. Importations of ghee and ghee substitutes in 1932 amounted to 299,472 lb.

Live Stock.

The estimated number of horned cattle in the Colony is 58,109, and of horses, asses and mules 6,743. As the market for fat stock is restricted to the limited number required by the local butcheries, any large development of stock-raising for beef purposes is unlikely unless the meat cannery at Tova is again operated or an export trade in beef is developed. A limited market for dairying cattle is available, but high-grade milking cows are in short demand as the dairy farmers are at present unable to afford any extensions to their herds.

Beef cattle are bred on a number of the European-owned coconut plantations where the animals are used to control plant growth on the estates and thus reduce weeding costs.

A considerable portion of the horned cattle is owned by Indian settlers, who use bullocks for their ploughing operations. Half-bred Zebu bullocks are favoured for field work.

The Fiji Pastoral Company has developed a profitable sideline to dairying at Navua by erecting modern piggeries. The Company has been successful in producing the type and grade of pig favoured by the local butcheries, and increasing numbers have been disposed of throughout the year. The pig-breeding industry, however, is not capable of any considerable extension, as demands are limited to the requirements of the European and Fijian populations. Importations of pigs during the past five years have been :—

Year.	*No.*	*Value.*
		£
1928	614	1,946
1929	629	2,147
1930	453	1,668
1931	460	1,315
1932	132	264

Sheep-breeding has made very little progress during the past few years, trouble being experienced with intestinal parasites and blow flies. Importations of sheep, principally for butchering, during the past five years have been :—

Year.	*No.*	*Value.*
		£
1928	1,640	2,922
1929	1,669	2,731
1930	1,378	1,690
1931	1,860	1,545
1932	1,830	1,334

Subsidiary Crops.

Cotton.—The cotton crop of 90 bales, each of 400 lb., was the smallest since 1923 when the industry was revived. The quality of the lint was however excellent, the staple being longer, stronger, and finer than for the previous year, and the colour good. Two bales of a special variety which has been developed at the Cotton Experimental Station at Sigatoka were shipped to the United Kingdom for special trial.

In view of the low prices prevailing for the sea-island variety the Government decided to discontinue commercial operations during 1933, but it is proposed in 1934 to test out on a large scale the new variety developed at the Experimental Station.

The cultivation of cotton is practically confined to East Indians, and of the 494 growers for the 1931-32 season only 23 were Fijians, the balance being Indians.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Export.—The Colony exports to New Zealand citrus fruits, fresh pineapples, kumalas (sweet potatoes), melons, pumpkins, and coconuts; and to Australia Mauritius beans, tomatoes and coconuts. The production of these crops is confined to Fijians, Indians, and Chinese.

Improved methods of handling and packing citrus fruits were introduced by the Department of Agriculture during the year, and prices realized in New Zealand showed a considerable appreciation. The colouring, grading, wrapping, and packing of oranges and mandarins were undertaken by the Department on behalf of and at the expense of the growers. Exports amounted to approximately 3,500 cases for the season.

Mauritius beans were tested for germination and freedom from foreign matter prior to export.

Food and other crops not exported.—Supplies of native foodstuffs were ample during the year.

Tobacco and maize grow well in almost every part of the Colony. Tobacco is grown and used by the non-European population of the Colony, but information is not available regarding the quantities produced. Maize is grown in limited quantities, as exports are not possible owing to the presence of insect pests. Enquiry is being made as to the desirability of erecting a drying and conditioning plant.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

The permanent committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor in 1930 to advise on matters relating to the agricultural training of Fijians and Indians functioned throughout the year. The Committee consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native, and Indian Affairs Departments, and a representative of the Methodist Mission.

The Methodist Mission continued their activities at Navuso, where there is established an agricultural school for Fijian and Indian youths. The provision of agricultural instruction in the Fijian provincial schools has continued to receive consideration, but the lack of qualified instructors continues to be a handicap.

The instruction of Fijian youths at the Navuso and Sigatoka Government Experimental Stations was continued during the year with satisfactory results, and a number of trained students were drafted to the field staff of the Department of Agriculture at the end of the year. These young men are stationed in different districts of the Colony, where they give instruction to their people in agricultural methods, advice in connection with district school gardens, and act as inspectors at banana-packing stations. A number of selected youths will go into residence at the experimental stations for training at the beginning of 1933.

The native field-staff, including the students who completed their training during the year, have given satisfactory service, and it may be said that this means of encouraging better methods of cultivation has been a success.

The instruction of Fijian adults in their own villages has been continued. In the Colo West and Nadroga provinces all implements for which payment had not been made were recalled and redistributed to four main centres where consolidated blocks of land were secured and put under cultivation under the supervision of the Cotton Specialist and his assistant and of trained native instructors. A system of crop rotation was inaugurated at each centre, including a food, pulse, and money crop. At the end of the year, 94 acres were under cultivation. Gross proceeds from crops grown at all the centres during 1932 were £226 5s. 11d., the money crops including :—

	lb.
Potatoes	31,295
Maize	18,471
Rice	10,909
Cotton	2,539
Peanuts	2,772

The cost of seed supplied was deducted from the proceeds of sales and 25 per cent. of the gross value of the products retained towards the repayment of funds advanced for the purchase of implements, the total amount recovered being £43 14s. 8d.

The Indian agricultural population, being engaged principally in the cultivation of sugar-cane, has the benefit of the advice and assistance of the trained officers of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Ltd. Indian agriculturists generally are far in advance of the Fijian people in so far as modern methods in agriculture are concerned. The financial position of the Colony has not permitted the development of a system of trained Indian instructors, but the field staff of the Department of Agriculture give the Indian community all the advice and assistance possible in the districts in which the Inspectors operate.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2, to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1932.

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
Freeholds	1,592	532,605	—	—	532,605	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	580	18,668	82	4,407	23,075	—
Leases of Native Land	7,389	296,711	399	12,019	308,730	—
			Totals		864,410	4,523,620

Four hundred and eighty-eight applications for leases of native lands aggregating 17,749 acres were received during the year. Of these, 270 applications for 9,336 acres were approved and 131 applications for 6,503 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 81 per cent. of the total. One hundred and thirty-one applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 5,196 acres. Of these, 99 applications for 3,272 acres were approved and 21 for 1,602 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

SURVEY.

The survey staff of the Lands Department consists of six officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1932 the field staff were employed almost wholly on investigations and miscellaneous surveys including surveys of native leases, and no main traverse work was possible. Seven surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native and Crown lands.

Five hundred and seventy-one plans of surveys by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, a European assistant, and three native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission, in 1932, concluded its inquiries in the Province of Serua, after which the Chief Assistant, Ratu J. L. V. Sukuna, was, in March, seconded for service in Lau as Provincial and District Commissioner. A commencement was made in the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of illegitimate native landowners in the Province of Rewa and Tailevu upon the passing of the Native Lands (Amendment) Ordinance, 1932, which provided the necessary powers. The native staff was engaged also in the settling of disputes which arose during the progress of surveys, in the preparation of new boundary descriptions as a result of successful appeals against the findings of the Commission, and in bringing up to date the entries in the registers of landowners for certain districts from the records of the births and deaths in the Registry.

The survey staff attached to the Commission comprises thirteen surveyors and three supernumerary officers. Survey operations were carried on in the Provinces of Colo West, Nadi, Naitasiri, Colo East, Tailevu North, Macuata, Bua, and Cakaudrove.

Mining.

There was not much prospecting for metals and minerals undertaken during the year. One prospector reported the discovery in Tavua district of gold-bearing material, apparently of thermal origin, and applied for a prospecting licence giving the exclusive right to the holder to pursue his investigations. As usual in the case of any reported discovery, other prospecting licence areas were applied for covering adjacent country.

The Mount Kasi Mining Company, the discoverers of low-grade barium sulphide gold ore at Yanawai (on the island of Vanualevu) in 1931, extended operations for further testing the extent and value of the lode and commenced normal mining activities under a temporary permit to mine pending the passing of new mining legislation and regulations. The Company exported 312 oz. of gold during the year, such gold being the first recorded export of mined gold from the Colony.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Colony in 1932 amounted to £2,556,310, imports being valued at £857,346 and exports at £1,698,964. The corresponding figures in 1931 were : total trade £1,929,701, imports £929,514, and exports £1,000,187. The value of imports in 1932 was thus £72,168 less than in 1931, while the value of exports was £698,777 greater. In 1932 the value of exports exceeded the value of imports by £841,618, while in 1931 the excess was only £70,673. The improvement in trade is due mainly to increased sugar production, the quantity exported in 1931 being 67.937 tons valued at £624,310 as compared with 131,302 tons valued at £1,289,239 exported in 1932 : the increase in 1932 being 63.365 tons valued at £664,929.

The following table sets out the values of imports, exports, total trade, and visible trade balance, for each of the past five years :—

Year ended 31st Dec.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*	*Excess of Exports or Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1928 ...	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420	1,218,082
1929 ...	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607	307,389
1930 ...	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710	265,342
1931 ...	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701	70,673
1932 ...	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	841,618

(Note.—Severe storms and floods were experienced both in 1929 and 1931.)

The total trade of the Colony in 1932 was divided between the different countries as follows :—

Country.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of total trade.*
	£	£	£	
United Kingdom	250,748	847,053	1,097,801	42·95
Australia	317,046	50,078	367,124	14·36
Canada	25,675	530,365	556,040	21·75
India	33,944	208	34,152	1·34
New Zealand	100,255	165,270	265,525	10·39
Dutch East Indies	22,633	—	22,633	·89
Japan	29,814	4,135	33,949	1·32
United States of America ...	25,937	38,819	64,756	2·53
Other British Possessions ...	12,034	31,207	43,241	1·69
Other Foreign Countries ...	17,364	29,614	46,978	1·83
	835,450	1,696,749	2,532,199	99·05
Ships' Stores	—	2,215	2,215	·09
Parcels Post	21,896	—	21,896	·86
Totals ... £	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	100·00

The following table shows how the trade was distributed during the past two years :—

Country.	*Percentage of Imports.*		*Percentage of Exports.*		*Percentage of total trade.*	
	1931	*1932*	*1931*	*1932*	*1931*	*1932*
United Kingdom ...	27·77	29·25	12·11	49·86	19·66	42·95
Other British Possessions.	57·93	57·03	73·67	45·74	66·10	49·53
Foreign countries ...	11·59	11·17	13·91	4·27	12·77	6·57
Parcels post ...	2·71	2·55	—	—	1·31	·86
Ships' stores ...	—	—	·31	·13	·16	·09
Total ...	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It will be noted that there was a marked increase in our export trade with the United Kingdom as compared with 1931. In 1932 the United Kingdom took 49.86 per cent. of our total exports as compared with 12.11 per cent. in 1931. This increased trade with the United Kingdom was due mainly to the fact that over 54 per cent. of sugar exported was absorbed by the United Kingdom. Exports to other British possessions fell from 73.67 per cent. in 1931 to 45.74 per cent. in 1932, while exports to foreign countries dropped from 13.91 per cent. in 1931 to 4.27 per cent. in 1932.

Imports.—The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows :—

Country.	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £	1931. £	1932. £
United Kingdom ...	404,718	418,570	373,694	258,171	250,748
Australia	621,396	543,963	449,845	372,284	317,046
Canada	70,262	84,822	60,076	40,134	25,675
India	44,613	69,222	43,239	32,622	33,944
New Zealand	140,697	140,418	102,339	81,470	100,255
Japan	28,811	23,576	17,135	23,909	29,814
Dutch East Indies ...	11,976	20,746	21,889	20,115	22,633
United States	131,994	121,441	86,224	51,789	25,937

The proportion of the total import trade done with these countries during the same period was as follows :—

Country.	1928. Per cent.	1929. Per cent.	1930. Per cent.	1931. Per cent.	1932. Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	27·28	28·50	30·65	27·77	29·25
Australia	41·90	37·04	36·90	40·05	36·98
Canada	4·19	5·77	4·94	4·32	3·00
India	3·00	4·03	3·55	3·51	3·96
New Zealand	9·48	9·56	8·39	8·76	11·69
Japan	1·94	1·60	1·45	2·57	3·48
Dutch East Indies ...	·80	1·41	1·80	2·16	2·64
United States	8·90	8·20	7·06	5·57	3·03

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows :—

From United Kingdom.

	1931.		1932.	
	Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Boots and shoes ...	—	2,785	—	2,083
Cement and lime	65,119 cwt.	7,619	50,631 cwt.	5,503
Drapery	—	80,254	—	83,051
Drugs	—	3,678	—	6,406
Hardware ...	—	25,803	—	19,769
Iron, black, mild steel	7,983 cwt.	3,712	6,039 cwt.	3,255
Iron, galvanised...	11,549 cwt.	8,121	8,078 cwt.	5,577
Machinery ...	—	12,786	—	9,311
Manures ...	2,594 tons	18,342	2,466 tons	13,778
Matches, wood ...	12,402 gross	2,176	38 350 gross	6,720
Motor vehicles ...	27	6,931	40	4,285
Oils	21,200 gall.	1,892	36,122 gall.	3,515
Paints	105 tons	4,367	81 tons	3,609
Salt	11,158 cwt.	2,126	14,902 cwt.	2,558
Spirits	13,115 gall.	13,087	12,256 gall.	13,015
Stationery ...	—	5,294	—	4,347
Tobacco	12,960 lb.	4,481	15,153 lb.	4,473
Toys and Fancy Goods.	—	6,168	—	10,149
Other articles ...	—	48,549	—	49,344
		£258,171		£250,748

From Australia.

	1931.		*1932.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Bags and sacks ...	61,733 doz.	19,678	60,419 doz.	22,058
Beer	34,612 gall.	6,848	31,838 gall.	6,259
Biscuits, fancy ...	117,274 lb.	5,890	96,570 lb.	4,560
Confectionery ...	75,875 lb.	3,749	64,314 lb.	2,962
Coal	18,989 tons	17,097	18,903 tons	17,194
Cordage and rope	1,527 cwt.	4,020	1,794 cwt.	4,215
Drapery	—	6,332	—	6,761
Drugs	—	5,117	—	6,366
Flour, Sharps and Pollard.	17,882,836 lb.	63,373	14,547,907 lb.	53,229
Fruits and vegetables, fresh.	25,104 cwt.	7,264	10,331 cwt.	4,394
Grease	2,041 cwt.	1,642	3,283 cwt.	2,692
Hardware ...	—	27,135	—	24,956
Machinery ...	—	15,739	—	17,606
Meats	149,945 lb.	4,122	160,780 lb.	4,049
Oils	67,694 gall.	5,633	88,890 gall.	7,234
Paints	56 tons	3,465	56 tons	3,366
Photographs and films	—	7,134	—	6,588
Rice	62,705 cwt.	34,289	10,805 cwt.	5,939
Spirits	3,969 gall.	5,105	2,621 gall.	3,085
Tea	145,595 lb.	11,028	141,008 lb.	8,977
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	74,630	24,529	64,986	20,578
Other articles ...	—	93,095	—	83,978
		£372,284		£317,046

From Canada.

Fish	328,514 lb.	6,766	492,168 lb.	9,785
Timber	2,255,406 sq. ft.	11,579	872,294 sq. ft.	4,219
Tyres and tubes...	—	4,699	—	3,329
Other articles ...	—	17,090	—	8,342
		£40,134		£25,675

From India.

Bags and sacks ...	17,666 doz.	4,574	18,125 doz.	4,710
Dhall	7,091 cwt.	3,758	9,133 cwt.	5,275
Drapery	—	1,562	—	3,068
Ghee and Ghee substitutes.	285,155 lb.	6,021	298,832 lb.	5,883
Oil, mustard ...	50,389 gall.	7,275	55,303 gall.	7,374
Other articles ...	—	9,432	—	7,634
		£32,622		£33,944

From New Zealand.

	1931.		*1932.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Bacon and hams	54,539 lb.	2,626	63,115 lb.	2,791
Bags and sacks ...	4,300 doz.	800	59,693 doz.	16,183
Drapery	—	3,438	—	2,390
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	15,030 cwt.	5,689	19,217 cwt.	7,584
Grease and tallow	3,057 cwt.	2,719	4,737 cwt.	4,599
Manure	4,883 cwt.	1,192	19,450 cwt.	4,150
Meat	169,514 cwt.	5,291	203,782 lb.	5,317
Photographs and Films.	—	21,482	—	22,888
Soap, plain ...	63,167 lb.	615	363,006 lb.	2,878
Sugar	367,022 lb.	2,493	384,763 lb.	2,472
Tea	78,441 lb.	8,969	56,293 lb.	5,459
Other articles ...	—	26,156	—	23,544
		£81,470		£100,255

From Japan.

Drapery	—	20,201	—	26,230
Other articles ...	—	3,708	—	3,584
		£23,909		£29,814

From Dutch East Indies.

Oil Crude ...	215,348 gall.	2,038	254,506 gall.	1,629
Kerosene ...	109,708 gall.	3,453	109,797 gall.	3,608
Motor Fuel ...	380,301 gall.	14,612	347,759 gall.	17,386
Other articles ...	—	12	—	10
		£20,115		£22,633

From United States of America.

Fruit and vegetables, Fresh.	1,416 cwt.	1,751	3,897 cwt.	2,028
Hardware ...	—	6,111	—	2,370
Oil-Kerosene ...	161,957 gall.	5,584	83,635 gall.	3,683
Motor Fuel ...	277,873 gall.	7,966	260,308 gall.	8,917
Other	156,989 gall.	4,983	46,571 gall.	2,608
Machinery, Agricultural.	—	6,927	—	940
Other articles ...	—	18,467	—	5,391
		£51,789		£25,937

Exports.—The exports of the principal products of the Colony for the past five years were as follows.

—		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... tons	120,683	1,827,095	72,275	881,263	90,979	853,833	67,937	624,310	131,302	1,289,239
Copra ...	... tons	27,947	567,254	33,226	563,978	23,882	369,524	16,917	177,786	15,076	170,240
Molasses ...	... tons	14,599	14,599	9,845	9,845	12,337	12,337	9,019	9,019	9,448	9,448
Bananas ...	Bunches	521,003	147,781	384,858	107,280	169,044	57,178	194,875	57,368	346,968	67,237
Biscuits ...	... lb.	438,211	11,306	373,793	9,507	338,892	8,456	149,630	3,325	133,266	3,135
Butter ...	... cwt.	303½	2,269	714	5,747	903	6,496	1,612	7,519	2,421	11,299
Cotton ...	... lb.	75,366	5,339	49,115	3,348	127,077	6,727	78,932	1,146	101,997	5,100
Vegetables	... cwt.	9,147	6,169	11,108	7,444	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875
Pines, Canned	... lb.	245,799	4,249	128,210	2,276	306,913	6,593	297,301	5,961	621,036	8,095
Pines, Fresh	... c/s	5,667	1,703	6,170	1,848	7,633	2,296	5,607	1,510	1,776	668

Exports of the produce of the Colony were valued at £1,606,349. The value of sugar was £1,289,239, which equals 80.26 per cent. of the total.

The quantity of sugar exported in 1932 constitutes a record for the Colony. The agreements arrived at at the Ottawa Conference have stabilized the position and the sugar industry is now in a very sound position. The prospects for 1933 are almost equally good.

As regards other products, the quantity of copra exported showed a slight decrease as compared with 1931, whilst bananas, butter, cotton, and canned pines showed an appreciable increase. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, Australia now admits 40,000 centals of bananas a year, the duty being 2s. 6d. per cental. The first shipment to Australia under this agreement was made in December.

Of the minor exports the following articles show increases over 1931 :—coconuts, gum, maize, trocas shell, and plain soap.

Suggestions for the development of trade with the United Kingdom and the Empire generally.

Fiji has given Empire goods a preference since 1921, and has had under consideration proposals for a revision of the tariff which include provision for increased preferences. The preferences granted by His Majesty's Government in Great Britain on Empire sugar imported into the United Kingdom have enabled the sugar industry to maintain the prices paid to the local growers of cane and have thus been largely responsible for the sound financial position of the Colony. This has undoubtedly resulted in increased purchases from the United Kingdom. A certain amount of trade has been diverted to the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire as the result of the high exchange rates on remittances to America, although this has been offset to a certain extent by the trade, especially in cotton goods, that has been diverted to Japan owing to her depreciated currency.

The lack of suitable shipping facilities has hitherto prevented the development of new markets for the Colony's products. A consignment of butter left Fiji in 1932 for England by direct steamer travelling via New Zealand. To avail themselves of this service, the three butter factories pooled their exports in order to make up as far as possible the total quantity required as a minimum shipment by the steamship company, and though it may not be possible to secure the full minimum quantity at any one time, the anticipated increase in butter production should enable exports to be made in this manner at lower rates for freight than have hitherto prevailed.

Four trial shipments of bananas were made to Vancouver during the year, and successfully demonstrated the commercial possibility of profitable export of the fruit to the market of Western Canada.

The trials indicated that no difficulty would be experienced in ensuring the arrival of the fruit in satisfactory condition if certain necessary improvements were effected in pre-shipment handling in Fiji. The merchants in Vancouver commented in very favourable terms on the texture and flavour of the fruit.

A direct shipping service between Eastern Canada and Fiji has not yet materialized, and it seems unlikely that one will be established until the economic position of the adjoining Dominion of New Zealand improves, as it is the trade between the two Dominions that would enable ships to call at Fiji *en route* from eastern Canada to a New Zealand port.

The Colony participated in the Central Canada Exhibition held in Ottawa, and in the Auckland Winter Exhibition. The Fiji stand at each of these exhibitions created wide interest, and the two officers who undertook to act as the official representatives received and transmitted numerous inquiries regarding the marketing of produce and the attractions of the Colony from the tourist's point of view. The policy of participating in well-established overseas exhibitions seems likely not only to stimulate inquiry into trade matters, but to encourage investors to look to Fiji, where there are agricultural industries awaiting the introduction of capital for their successful development.

Merchants and manufacturers who are interested in the produce of the Colony, or who are looking for increased trade with Fiji, should, when visiting New Zealand and Australia, endeavour to spend a short time in Fiji *en route* and to give notice of their arrival to the Government or the Chamber of Commerce so that arrangements may be made to meet them and facilitate their enquiries.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

No change has been made during the year in the conditions governing the employment of labourers under contract of service. Agricultural labourers may be employed under contracts for a period not exceeding twelve months. Every contract for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent if the contract appears unreasonable or inequitable. The hours of labour are nine a day, from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and returning them to their villages is borne by the employer. Adequate safeguards are provided by law for the proper housing and treatment of labourers and employers are required to provide medical care in cases of sickness.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands he is capable of supporting himself and his family from the products of his lands. There is therefore no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians do support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is therefore no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. The men are employed chiefly in the loading and unloading of cargo vessels and many of them return to their villages after the work on each ship is completed. A large number of these labourers are drawn from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. There is, however, nothing to prevent then from returning to their villages and resuming their place in the native social system if they so desire. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small interinsular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed, and they are in all cases a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew. This type of work is popular with the Fijians and the wages they earn are sufficient for the support of themselves and their dependants.

The wages paid for the various classes of labour are a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law but in all contracts of service exceeding one month the District Commissioner may decline to register the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. Statistics concerning the current rate of wages are given elsewhere.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

There was no marked alteration in labour conditions, or in the rates of wages, which tended to remain at the levels of 2s. 6d. per day in Suva and 2s. per day elsewhere. Reference is made in Chapter XV to the tendency towards a small reduction of wages in domestic and allied services. Employment is, to a large extent, seasonal, particularly in the sugar districts where the maximum opportunities are afforded during the months when the mills are operating, but there is very little hardship during other periods because the majority of Indian labourers, having smallholdings of their own, are not entirely dependent for their livelihood on their wage earnings. A definite fall in the cost of living of the Indian community resulted from a record rice crop.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total average number of labourers skilled and unskilled employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was 1,601; of these, 1,308 were employed in Suva District and 293 in various country districts. The total of 1,308 for Suva district is made up of 1,134 who were employed on the construction of the Transinsular Road and of 174 who were employed on other works in and around Suva.

The classes of the labourers were: European, 56; Half-caste, 76; Fijian, 1,131; Indian, 309; others, 29.

Approximately three-quarters of these workmen were engaged on road work, and, as has been the case in the past, Indians predominated on maintenance work, whereas the bulk of the labour employed on new construction work was Fijian.

Wages for unskilled labour remained at 2s. 6d. a day in most districts, although 2s. 3d. a day was paid on the west coast of Viti Levu and in some of the country districts.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. a day according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths, and fitters. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above and the time is not far distant when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen:—

Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day depending on the degree of skill.

Boat-builders 8s. to 20s. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boatsheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 20s. a day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 12s. 6d. a week.

Painters (usually Indians), 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 11s. to 18s. a day. The average wage is £4 10s. 0d. a week.

Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. 0d. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. 0d. a month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department and the conditions under which the labourers work, are practically identical with those obtaining outside the Department. The hours of work are 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week, and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose employees work 9 hours a day or 54 hours a week.

There are no records kept by the Public Works Department of the cost of living of the different classes of labourers employed. In any case there is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories, each with a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £12 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £5 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited, periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general; cook and house-boy; and cook, house-boy, and a garden-boy or nurse-girl.

Cooks earn £5 to £6 per month and food. Others, £2 to £4 per month and food.

Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are cheaper, but less efficient. White servants are very rarely employed, except as children's nurses.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country, on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

In Suva a single man could live, though with little margin for emergencies, on £200 a year. In country districts, if quarters were provided, he could live on slightly less.

European artisans tend to be employed only on fairly responsible work, and are usually men who keep up a fairly high standard of living. Since they are unlikely to have any privileges in the shape of free housing, it is unlikely that a married man could manage on less than £250 to £300 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use.

Butter	1s. 8d. per lb.
Bread	3d. per lb.
Milk	6d. per quart.
Cheese	1s. 1d. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 3d. per lb.
Pork	1s. 3d. per lb.
Rice	2d. per lb.
Coffee	2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.
Tea	2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. per lb.
Sugar, white	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown	2d. per lb.
Salt	1½d. per lb.
Eggs	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per doz.
Bacon	1s. 8d. per lb.
Potatoes	14s. per cwt.
Preserved meats	1s. 1d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Flour	2½d. per lb.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows :—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free ...	£2 2 0 a year.
Secondary	£6 0 0 a year ...	£7 10 0 a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical Fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Owing chiefly to high Customs duties, medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and Social Clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s. and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis, golf, and cricket clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees, £1 1s. to £3 3s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows :

	£
New Zealand	12 to 25
Australia	25 to 50
England	87.10 to 159.10

A special cabin-class return passage to England is quoted at £119 16s.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost of living of Fijian and Indian labourers, of whom only a small number are dependent on their wages. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to grow and husk their own rice. In these ways they materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are landowners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages, as they can return and live on their own lands whenever they so desire. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced foodstuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

Native education owes its origin to missionary enterprise, which commenced with the arrival of the Methodist Mission in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870, and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889. On their own initiative the early Methodist missionaries established schools throughout the Colony, reduced the language to writing, produced a Fijian-English dictionary, and printed a translation of the New Testament. Primary education is still largely under the influence of the various Missions.

An important step forward in the educational policy of the Colony took place in 1916, when an Education Bill was passed creating a Department of Education and a Board of Education having power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed to inquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of and facilities provided for the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No. 1 of 1929 was passed. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools. The value of practical education was recognized by making eligibility for registration and for grants-in-aid dependent on satisfactory instruction being given in agriculture or manual work for boys and domestic crafts for girls.

At the end of September, 1932, there were 309 schools having a roll of 19,506 pupils, with an average attendance of 16,085.

European Education.

There are twelve schools which enrol Europeans: three are maintained wholly by Government, four by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company at the sugar centres, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, and two by local committees. Primary education is given in all these schools, while in addition secondary tuition is available in Suva at the grammar schools, St. Joseph's Convent and St. Felix College, pupils being prepared for the New Zealand public service and the Cambridge Local Examinations. Manual instruction for boys and cookery for girls are included in the curriculum. At the Convent and the Girls' and Boys' grammar schools an alternative commercial course may be taken which includes book-keeping, shorthand, and business principles. In 1932 St. Joseph's Convent presented fourteen candidates for the Cambridge Local Examination; twelve passed, of whom two gained the School Certificate. The grammar schools presented six candidates for the New Zealand Intermediate Examination, all of whom passed, and seven for the University Entrance Examination, three of whom passed.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes which are designed to enable a pupil taking them to pass into an appropriate class in one of the grammar schools without loss of time. These classes are conducted by a late Head Mistress of the Girls' Grammar School and are of great value to children in outlying country districts.

Under a scheme of co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji, the grammar schools in Suva and the Levuka Public School are staffed by trained certificated New Zealand teachers. The syllabus of instruction used is very similar to that used in New Zealand schools.

Three grades of European scholarships, tenable for three years, may be awarded by the Board of Education on the results of competitive examinations. The local Junior Scholarships provide for free tuition at one of the local secondary schools and a monetary grant of £20 a year to country children under the age of twelve years. The Local Senior Scholarships, one for girls and one for boys under 14 years of age, provide free tuition in the secondary departments and a grant of £5 or £20, according to whether the scholar is or is not resident in Suva.

The Fiji Scholarship of an annual value of £120 and tenable for three years at an approved university or training institute in one of the neighbouring Dominions is awarded on the results of the Entrance Examination of the University of New Zealand.

Approximately half of the cost of European education is met from general revenue and half from a special education rate levied in the municipalities on the unimproved value of rateable property. The children of ratepayers are exempt from the payment of fees in the primary departments, but they pay a fee of £6 a year if they are pupils in the secondary departments. The fees for children of non-ratepayers, that is for children who do not reside within the municipalities, are £2 2s. and £7 10s. a year respectively. There is a reduction of one-third when two or more members of a family attend school.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for girls and one for boys. The boarding fee is £50 a year with varying reductions for two, three, or more members of the same family. There are also hostels attached to St. Felix College and St. Joseph's Convent. In Levuka, hostels are maintained by the Anglican and Roman Catholic Missions.

The children on the roll of these European schools number 630 girls and 617 boys. The net cost to Government in 1932 was £5,192.

A private kindergarten school for pupils under six years of age has been lately established in Suva.

Fijian Education.

The population of Fiji, estimated at 190,000, is composed mainly of Fijians and Indians. Each race has its own schools. Village vernacular schools for Fijians have long been established by the various Missions and practically all the Fijians can read and write the vernacular. Last year many of these one-teacher schools were grouped into District schools under the control of District Commissioners and are being staffed with trained certificated native teachers as they become available. The standard of instruction given is not high, but it is improving. In 1932, 97 Fijian schools received grants-in-aid amounting to £7,000. The enrolment was 3,529 girls and 4,077 boys, with an average attendance of 85 per cent.

There are six Government provincial schools in which a primary course is given through the vernacular up to standard 3 and through English to standard 5. All these schools are residential. Every effort is made to encourage the practice of Fijian customs and ceremonies, and at least fourteen hours a week are devoted to instruction in practical agriculture and wood-work. The food gardens of each of these schools cover areas varying from ten to fifteen acres. One school is actively engaged in sugar-cane cultivation, another is developing a dairy herd, and a third has a banana project. The Fijians contribute £4,500 (approximately half the total cost) towards the maintenance of these six schools. Candidates for admission are selected by the local village chiefs, and places are allocated to the various provinces in proportion to their monetary contributions.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians is maintained from tuition fees and from Government funds. Six scholarships tenable for three years are awarded each year, on the results of a competitive examination, to Fijian boys between the ages of twelve and fourteen. Pupils are given an elementary education (English is the medium of instruction) and are prepared for admission to the clerical staff of the Government service, the Teachers' Training School, the Central Medical School, and the Methodist Mission Agricultural School.

The gross Government expenditure on Fijian education was approximately £23,000, of which £5,000 was recoverable through fees and provincial contributions.

Indian Education.

In 1932 there were 7 Government and 41 assisted schools for Indians, with a total roll of 3,608 boys and 1,076 girls. Many of these are one-teacher schools under the control of local committees, the members of which for the most part are uneducated and parochial. Each school was inspected twice during the year and there was evidence of sound progress which will be accelerated as qualified teachers become available. The medium of instruction in the lower classes is Hindustani. English is taught and tends to become the medium of instruction in the higher classes.

Indian boys may proceed from these schools to the Government Indian School at Natabua, which was established in 1919, where they may prepare for the entrance examination of the New Zealand University. The fee in the primary school is 10s. a year and in the secondary department £7 10s. a year. Provision has been made for boarders in a hostel, the fee being £24 a year.

In Suva there are two Roman Catholic schools for non-European children at which pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

A few years ago the instruction given in Indian schools was of a poor quality. Lack of experience on the part of managers, who were often illiterate, lack of qualified teachers, and the complete absence of school material and text-books each contributed its quota to this undesirable state of affairs. But now that trained teachers are becoming available, and managers are taking a keener interest in their duties, and a Hindi-English school journal is being published, the future looks hopeful.

The net cost to Government of Indian education in 1932 was £8,688, of which £4,371 was distributed as grants-in-aid.

Professional and Technical Training.

There are four teacher-training institutions (three Mission and one Government), one Medical School, two agricultural training institutions, and a Methodist Mission school for joinery.

Training of Teachers.—The earlier missionaries felt the urgent need for native teachers and tried to satisfy it. As early as 1856 the Methodist Mission established a central institution for the training of pastors and teachers. It was followed by others better situated and with improved curricula, but it was not until 1916 that the present training institute for teachers was established at Davuilevu where teachers are now prepared for the Government Teachers' Examinations. The Catholic and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission for a number of years trained teachers in their own schools, but now each has a teacher-training institution in the island of Ovalau.

The Education Commission of 1926 recommended that a Government institution for the training of teachers be established, and that the Methodist Mission training institute be continued and supported by a more generous system of grants-in-aid. Both of these recommendations were adopted. The number of teachers in training at these institutions during 1932 was 98.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate, candidates must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university, or equivalent qualification; for the fifth class the standard required is that which would be attained by an English child passing out of the fifth standard. In 1932, 58 Fijians and 35 Indian candidates from training institutions sat for the Teachers' Certificate Examinations. Fifty passed and 36 obtained partial passes. The number of certificated trained teachers in the Colony was 398 and of recognized teachers 660.

There is no provision for the training of European teachers, any vacancies being filled by teachers trained overseas.

Central Medical School.—This school is a development of a scheme of medical training for natives inaugurated in 1873 at the Colonial Hospital, Suva. The present school was established in 1928, with the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation.

and is maintained by joint contributions from the various Pacific administrations. The school is residential and has accommodation for 40 students. Candidates for admission must have a fair knowledge of English, and selection is made by examination. After a four years' course, graduates are granted diplomas in medicine and surgery. There were seven graduates in 1932.

Navuso Agricultural School.—This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 and provides an elementary course in farming and the management of stock. The roll was 85.

In 1926 the Government took over 30 acres of the Navuso estate to be used as an experimental station. There are now 10 students at the station receiving instruction in agriculture and a training fitting them to become native agricultural instructors in the provinces.

Physical and Moral Welfare.

During the year regulations for the medical examination of school children were made. The Chief Medical Officer has power to appoint School Medical Officers who are invested with powers to examine all pupils in registered schools. Indian and Fijian children are entitled to free medical treatment. Instruction in hygiene and sanitation is emphasized in all schools. Football, both rugby and association, cricket, and basket-ball are played throughout the Colony, and in certain districts competitions arouse great interest.

An annual grant of £100 is made by the Government to the Fiji Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. There is a total roll of 672 Boy Scouts and 261 Girl Guides.

Finance.

The gross expenditure on education during 1932 was £45,057, out of a total expenditure for the Colony of £528,604. The gross revenue was £11,502, representing native and other contributions, education rates of Suva and Levuka, boarding and tuition fees, and sale of school requisites. The net Government expenditure on education was therefore £33,555, or 3s. 6d. per head of the population.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The contracts for the two inter-island steamer services expired in May, and at the end of that month the s.s. *Malake* was withdrawn from the main inter-island service to Vanualevu, Taveuni, Lau, and Rotuma. A restricted service, however, was provided by H.M.C.S. *Pioneer* during the remainder of the year.

A new contract was entered into for the Suva-Vanualevu service, and from the 15th May the *Sir John Forrest* provided a service of two trips monthly, instead of three as formerly, between Suva, Levuka, and the north-western coast of Vanualevu.

The subsidized launch service on the Rewa river, between Nausori and Vunidawa, was maintained daily, Sundays excepted, throughout the year.

There is a daily mail service by motor vehicle from Suva to Nausori, and a weekly service to Tailevu.

Vessels of the Fiji Shipping Company and other launches serve the coastal ports of Viti Levu, and from the 1st July there has been a subsidized motor mail service along the north coast of Viti Levu.

Suva is included in the itinerary of the two vessels of the Canadian-Australasian Line, the *Aorangi* (17,500 tons) and the *Niagara* (13,500 tons), which call at Suva once in every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney and Auckland and Honolulu and Vancouver. A subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid for this service.

Two vessels of the Matson Navigation Company, the *Mariposa* and the *Monterey* (each of 22,000 tons), call at Suva every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney and Auckland, and Pago Pago (American Samoa), Honolulu, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The s.s. *Karetu* maintains a four-weekly cargo service between Sydney, Lautoka, Suva, and Auckland, and the *Waipahi* provides a similar service between Auckland, Suva, Levuka, Apia (Western Samoa), Vavau and Nukualofa (Tonga).

Nine steamers arrived direct from London via Panama during the year, and the s.s. *Ganges* made one journey from Calcutta to Suva, arriving on the 11th May.

Wireless stations at Suva, Labasa, Taveuni, and Savu Savu were maintained by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited throughout the year, and the Company also provided plant and operator for the station at Lautoka under a separate arrangement.

A new station was opened by Government at Rotuma on the 23rd August.

Communication by telegraph and telephone is provided between Suva, Rewa, and Colo East, between Rewa, Tailevu, and Levuka, and between Suva and Navua. Similar facilities are available between Ra, Tavua, Ba and Lautoka, on the northern coast of Viti Levu.

Telephone exchanges are situated at Suva, Levuka, Nausori, Davuilevu, and Navua, and there are rural party telephone lines extending along the Savu Savu and Taveuni coasts for 40 miles and 38 miles respectively.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by the Imperial and International Communications Ltd. by cable, and by the Suva station of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, by wireless.

There is no organized omnibus service but, where roads exist, light chars-à-bancs ply between various centres and outlying points at competitive rates averaging from 1d. per mile. These vehicles, which are Indian-owned and driven, have a carrying capacity of from 8 to 18 passengers.

An agreement was entered into with Fiji Airways Limited for the provision of a seaplane service in 1933.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows :—

	Miles.
Metalled	$146\frac{3}{4}$
Gravelled	$241\frac{3}{4}$
Earth (motorable)	153
Earth (not motorable)	$21\frac{1}{2}$
Bridle tracks	$1{,}671\frac{3}{4}$
Total	$2{,}234\frac{3}{4}$

Substantial progress has been made on the Transinsular and Cuvu-Yako roads.

It is expected that both roads will be completed before the end of 1933, when it will be possible to motor from Suva, via Viti Levu Bay and the west coast, round to Sovi Bay, a distance of about 222 miles.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the narrow 2 foot gauge laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company on the Rewa River, along the sea coast from Sigatoka (south-west Vitilevu) to Tavua (north of Vitilevu), in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Vitilevu, and at Labasa on the island of Vanualevu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Sigatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government.

The total mileage of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles.

About 220 miles of this total length consists of the main line from Sigatoka to Tavua with the necessary branch lines.

Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connection with the transport work of this Company.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £8,780,000, while that of the latter is £6,858,113. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,048,957, and by the Bank of New Zealand £401,931.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 10,858 to 11,898, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £142,077 to £163,790. The total amount on deposit at the end of the year was thus £21,713 more than the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1931.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1932, was £205,585, as against which was held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1932)	220,559	
Cash in hand	Nil	
		220,559
Surplus		£14,974

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1932 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from Investments ...		8,429
Interest credited to depositors ...	5,380	
Salaries	1,565	
Expenses	442	
		7,387
Surplus		£1,042

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500 (reduced to 3 per cent. as from the 1st January, 1933), and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks in the Colony.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes and British sterling coins which are the legal tender of the Colony.

The position of the Currency Notes Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

	£	£
Liabilities :—		
Notes in circulation	467,150	
Amount owing to the Treasury	12,234	
		479,384
Assets :—		
Gold reserve (sovereigns) ...	85,881	
Sterling Securities, Note Guarantee Fund	426,613	
Sterling Securities, Depreciation Fund	47,456	
In transit to Bank of New Zealand, Wellington ...	40,000	
		599,950
Surplus on values at 31st December 1932		£120,566

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1932 produced a net surplus of £14,774 as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Securities ...		14,863
Expenses	89	
	—	89
Surplus		£14,774

The natives refuse to recognize copper coins, and in country stores threepence is usually the lowest charge. The number of pennies in circulation is consequently small.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £160,747 11s. 1d., and was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments and Other Charges	18,288	1	2
Public Works Recurrent	49,856	1	7
Public Works Extraordinary	3,819	17	2
Loan Works	79,317	7	6
Miscellaneous	9,466	3	8
	£160,747	11	1

The corresponding figures for the last five years are given hereunder :—

	£
1928	205,234
1929	242,077
1930	212,792
1931	166,690
1932	160,747

The carrying out of the public works of the Colony is in the hands of four Executive Engineers, three District Engineers, and a Mechanical Engineer. The three former are in charge of all civil engineering works and the latter all mechanical, electrical, and marine engineering works.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, the machine shops, the repair shops, the Government slipways, the garages of the Department, and the offices of the District and Mechanical Engineers.

The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, and so on, also operate from Walu Bay. The two slipways were in continuous commission throughout the year, and the tonnages handled by the large and small slipways were 9,490 and 1,180 tons respectively.

Throughout the year a plentiful supply of skilled and unskilled labour was available for the carrying out of the various works, and the average numbers of workmen employed in the Suva District were: skilled 108, unskilled 1,200. The expenditure by the District and Mechanical Engineers was £66,795 5s. 11d. and £27,484 11s. 11d. respectively, giving a total expenditure on works in the Suva District of £94,279 17s. 10d.

Work on the construction of the Transinsular road proceeded satisfactorily during the year. At the end of 1932 all but about 40,000 cubic yards of excavation out of a total of some 650,000 cubic yards remained to be done; twelve bridges of steel and reinforced concrete, ranging from 30 to 120 feet in length, were completed; and about eight miles of gravelling were completed during the year. Weather conditions throughout the year were distinctly unfavourable and retarded the work considerably, but notwithstanding these conditions the work is sufficiently far advanced to indicate that it will probably be completed and open for traffic before the end of 1933.

The construction of the Cuvu-Yako road, which was commenced late in 1931, was well advanced at the close of the year; all the excavation was finished, and all but one bridge out of the 15 bridges on this route were completed. In dry weather it is now possible to motor from Lautoka to the Sigatoka River, a distance of some 67 miles, in about two and a half hours. One bridge and about 18 miles of gravelling remained to be done at the end of the year, and it is anticipated that this road will be permanently open to traffic about the end of September, 1933.

The operations of the West Coast Road Board proved conclusively the wisdom of combining the roads of the Lautoka, Nadi, Ba, and Colo North districts under a single executive; considerable economies were effected and the roads were progressively improved, giving continuous and rapid transport throughout the areas served.

The wooden bridge across the Yagara river in the Colo North district was partially swept away towards the end of the year, but the building of a new bridge in steel and reinforced concrete at a more suitable site was already well in hand, and little inconvenience was occasioned to the public. The new bridge, which is some 170 feet long, consists of three 30-feet and two 40-feet spans, with reinforced abutments founded on the solid. One pier is founded on the solid and three on reinforced concrete piles 16 inches by 16 inches hexagonal in section. The bridge is decked in reinforced concrete, giving a clear traffic way 16 feet wide. This bridge, which will be finished about February, 1933, is estimated to cost, together with the road deviation necessary to give access to the new site, about £3,500.

The power requirements at the Walu Bay workshops having become inadequate, a scheme of electrification was decided on. The work was put in hand and was almost completed at the end of the year, and it is anticipated that the electrification will lead to economies and facilitate the carrying out of the works undertaken.

The following bridges were completed during the year :—

Bridge.	*Length.* *Feet.*	*Height.* *Feet.*	*Cost.* £	*s.*	*d.*
Waisomo ...	120	25	1,469	10	4
Walau	120	25	1,432	15	0
Wainiboa ...	120	25	1,401	13	4
Ualailai	80	25	864	18	2
Dausiga	40	25	490	9	6
Dewala	120	25	1,713	8	10
Borotu	80	12	517	10	11
Wainibi	40	8	530	4	0
Nagarani	40	10	388	4	6

and some fourteen other bridges of smaller dimensions.

The beaconing of the various waterways and marine dangers was continued during the year, and lights of the A.G.A. system were installed in the lighthouses at Wakaya, Batiki, Vio Island, Maikorokoro, Navula passage, and Udu Point. A lighthouse in reinforced concrete was built on the island of Batiki, opposite to the light on Wakaya reef as an additional safeguard against the danger to navigation occasioned by the Horseshoe Reef situated between these islands and Koro in the Koro sea.

The provision of water supplies to native villages was continued, so far as funds would allow. Some £380 was spent on this service.

Although funds provided for maintenance works have been reduced to a minimum during the last few years, roads, bridges, buildings, water supplies, and so on were in as satisfactory a state at the end of the year as could be expected.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these Sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *Nisi Prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council dated 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors, Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors, with the exception of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, salaried functionaries of any foreign Government not carrying on business, persons employed by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, or by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clerymen and ministers, officers and others on full pay in His Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity or earning an income of less than £150 a year, and persons convicted of any treason, felony, or infamous crime who have not received a full pardon, are disqualified from serving. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Sheriff, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen.

In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to " The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by " The Civil Procedure Rules (1875) " or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890,

Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905,

Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissoners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the Magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in which they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure beng laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of those inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided‡ in criminal matters when

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* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

† Ordinance 2 of 1903.

‡ Rules, 1906.

(*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £3.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. A new edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

There is one Judge in the Colony, the Chief Justice, 17 Magistrates (District Commissioners), 63 Justices of the Peace, and 28 Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 52 criminal cases heard at the sessions during 1932 as against 35 for 1931; of these two were murder charges involving eight accused.

Seventy-six civil cases were instituted in the Civil Division and were composed as follows:—actions for recovery of debt, etc., 51; actions brought under mortgages and agreements, 3; recovery of rent, rates, etc., 3; originating summonses, 11; actions for damages, 3; and miscellaneous, 5. One civil appeal was lodged in 1932 and there were three criminal appeals.

In the Divorce Court 16 petitions were filed, of which three were European and half-caste petitioners, twelve Indian petitioners, and one Pacific Islander petitioner. There were 79 petitions for divorce by native Fijians.

Eighty-two grants were made in the Probate Jurisdiction; of these 33 were grants of probate, 15 Letters of Administration, and 34 re-seals of Colonial and other grants.

Four petitions were filed in the Bankruptcy Court.

There were no applications for admission as barristers and solicitors during the year. There are thirteen European and two Indian practitioners in the Colony.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1927 to 1932 is given below.

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil appeal.*	*Criminal appeal.*	*Grants of probate, etc.*
1927	73	6	72	27	1	2	—	75
1928	75	5	240	49	2	3	5	69
1929	77	10	175	55	4	1	7	74
1930	115	13	73	48	3	6	3	96
1931	84	12	89	35	2	—	5	66
1932	106	16	79	52	4	2	4	82

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of a mixed Force of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the Force are at Suva, where there is a Central Station at Totogo and a Depot at Nasova.

Being quasi-military in organization, the Constabulary is required to suppress internal disturbances and also assist in defending the Colony against external aggression.

Special constables may be enrolled when needed in cases of tumult or riot.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those Districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioner.

ARMAMENT AND TRAINING.

The Force is armed with the S.M.L.E. rifle. Regular parades are held throughout the year and an annual course of musketry is fired. The Force parades for annual inspection by the Governor, and also with the Defence Force on ceremonial occasions. Such Police instruction as is possible is given, but in the absence of a Reserve it is difficult to arrange for a complete course of training for recruits.

STRENGTH.

On 31st December, 1932, the authorized strength was :—

European :—	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy-Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd grade	7
Fijians :—	
N.C.O.s	22
Constables	81
Indians :—	
N.C.O.s	13
Constables	67

EXPENDITURE.

The total cost of the Force for all services was £23,122 7s. 8d., being a rate per head of the population of 2s. 5¼d.

CRIME.

Two hundred and two persons were prosecuted by the Constabulary for offences against the person, 349 for offences against property, and 2,124 for other offences.

Of these, 43, 35, and 4 respectively were committed for trial by the Supreme Court.

The remainder were dealt with by the District Commissioners, 2,388 being convicted and 205 discharged.

TRAFFIC.

The Constabulary control traffic in the Colony, and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers.

The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1932 was 1,308, made up as follows :—

Motor cars for private use	537
Motor cars plying for hire	217
Motor chars-à-bancs	181
Motor lorries for carriage of goods	205
Motor cycles	168

Convictions for offences under the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations numbered 329.

Motor vehicles having a gross loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly designed for a rolling load of ten tons.

Prisons.

The administration of the prisons throughout the Colony is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons, whose headquarters are at the Central Gaol, Suva.

In addition to the Central Gaol, where all prisoners whose sentences exceed 6 months are confined, there are 17 provincial gaols where only short-term prisoners are confined. The majority of these are sentenced for breaches of Native regulations and are not of the criminal type.

In provincial gaols the prisoners are principally employed in the maintenance of Government stations, in cutting firewood, or in manning the Government boats. They are also employed in the prison food plantations, where native foodstuffs are grown with a view to reducing the cost of rations. Only a limited number of prisoners are confined in provincial gaols, any surplus being transferred to the central gaol in Suva.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

At the Central Gaol, bread-baking, tailoring, tin-smithing, mat-making, carpentry, gardening, the making of awnings and tarpaulins, and saw-milling are taught.

The bakery supplies all Government institutions in and near Suva, the output for the year being 290,340 lb. valued at £2,419 10s.

2,389 tons of firewood, valued at £1,677 were cut at the saw-mill and supplied to Government institutions.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

The health of prisoners during the year has been particularly good.

At the Central Gaol there is a fully equipped infirmary, with a resident Native Medical Practitioner under the supervision of a European visiting Medical Officer.

Only those cases requiring major surgical operations are transferred to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. During the year there were 91 admissions, and three deaths. The main ailments and diseases treated were influenza, dysentery, dyspepsia, and septic wounds.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Ministers and priests of the following denominations are authorized to hold services every Sunday: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Moslem, Sikh, and Hindu. The interest taken by these visiting ministers in the welfare of the prisoners is greatly appreciated by the Prison authorities. Religious books are available for any prisoner who asks for them.

TREATMENT OF JUVENILES.

It is satisfactory to record that no juvenile under the age of 16 years was committed to prison or for detention in the Juvenile Institution at Makaluva during the year. An Ordinance providing for the control of juvenile offenders was passed and it is possible now to make adequate arrangements for dealing with juveniles.

CLASSIFICATIONS.

Prisoners are classified as follows :—

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or for failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour.

FINGER PRINT AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

An up-to-date bureau is established at the Central Gaol for the taking of photographs and finger prints.

STAFF.

The Gaoler and Overseers at the Central Gaol are Europeans, as also are the officers in charge of Provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists entirely of Fijians and Indians.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

No corporal punishment was inflicted during the year.

CHAPTER XIV.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Although subject in common with all other sections of the community, to the laws of the Colony, the Fijians continue to enjoy a very large measure of self-government. Under the Native Regulations, which were revised in 1927, provision is made for the performance of all duties which are deemed to be for the benefit of the Fijian community. These duties include housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of crops for food or profit, maintenance of roads and communal property, the care of the sick and the control of infectious diseases. The domestic affairs of each district are under the control of a District Council which is composed of tribal chiefs and village headmen and is presided over by the Buli of the District. Subject to the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to make regulations for the good government of their respective districts, and to elect representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Native administration of each Province is controlled by a Provincial Council. These councils are composed of Native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. With the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to levy rates to defray the cost of provincial administration, and to make regulations for the good government and welfare of the inhabitants of the respective provinces. They also have the right to elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council, which is composed of Native officials, chiefs nominated by the Governor or the Secretary for Native Affairs, and Provincial representatives, meets every two years and advises the Governor on all matters touching the welfare of the natives as a whole. From the chiefs nominated by this Council the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. This series of Councils provides a means whereby the opinions and aspirations of the Fijian people are adequately represented in the Legislature of the Colony. Infringements of Native Regulations are dealt with in District and Provincial Courts. A District Court is presided over by a Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and a Provincial Court by a District Commissioner and Native Stipendiary Magistrate. Appeal lies from a District to a Provincial Court and from a Provincial Court, in its original jurisdiction, to the Supreme Court of the Colony. No change was made during the year in the system of Native administration, which is well understood by the Fijians and is in accord with native tradition and custom.

Throughout the year the general health of the native population was good, and there were no serious epidemics in any of the districts. The physical well-being of the natives is under the care of the Medical Service, the staff of which is comprised of European Medical Officers and Nurses, Native and Indian medical practitioners, and Native Obstetric Nurses. The Native and Indian medical practitioners are trained at the Central Medical School attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, and the Native obstetric nurses at the Suva and Lautoka hospitals. All Fijians are given free medical and surgical treatment at the general and provincial hospitals, and at the hands of the European and Native Medical Officers throughout the Colony. Many of the Native medical practitioners and Native obstetric nurses are not attached to hospitals but travel throughout the country districts and attend to the natives in their own homes.

The campaign for the treatment of ankylostomiasis, yaws, and *tinea imbricata*, under the direction of Dr. Lambert, of the Rockefeller Foundation, was continued energetically throughout the year and much good work was also done in the improvement of sanitary conditions by the provision of bore-hole latrines. Dr. Lambert commenced his tuberculin survey, principally around Suva; this survey will extend eventually to the whole Colony. The vital statistics for the year were satisfactory and show a marked improvement over those of the previous year. The total increase in the population was 1,562, as compared with 1,225 in 1931. The total native population at the end of 1932 was estimated at 94,976, which gives an increase of 10,618 since the last census in 1921.

Child welfare work has been continued and extended during the year. In order to secure the fullest co-operation between the

Administrative and Medical Officers the control of this work has been placed in the hands of a Central Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Inspecting Medical Officer. District Committees, under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner, have been formed in each district. The Inspecting Medical Officer travelled extensively during the year and was able to visit and supervise the work in many of the distant parts of the Group. Child welfare work has now been extended to practically every district in Fiji. In most of the villages women's committees have been formed, and regular inspections of the children are carried out and minor ailments treated. A welfare centre has been established in the native section of Suva, and an ante-natal clinic has been started at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. Although it is, as yet, too early for child welfare work to have any marked effect upon the vital statistics there has been an encouraging decrease in infant mortality in several provinces. There is however no doubt that the work has led to considerable improvement in the general health of the women and children, and in the conditions of their houses.

The standard of Fijian education is being slowly but steadily improved. Certificated teachers, trained in the Government and Mission training institutions, are gradually replacing the old type of teacher in the district and group schools. Several new group schools were established during the year, and in many districts the natives have, through their District Councils, levied upon themselves a small education rate. In most cases these rates are supplementary to the salary grants given by the Government and are used for equipment and maintenance expenses. The further development of Fijian district and group schools will depend upon the funds to be made available as grants-in-aid, and to the extent to which the Fijians can afford to supplement these funds. Although funds do not as yet permit of the universal education of the natives, the high standard which is being attained by a large number of group and district schools provides a sure foundation upon which to build in the future. Education of a more advanced type, including practical agricultural and manual instruction, is provided in the Government provincial schools and the central Mission institutions. Selected pupils from these schools may continue their education at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, from which many pass to the Teachers' Training Institution, the Central Medical School, the Agricultural Department Training Centre, and the Government and Provincial services. A detailed survey of native education is given in another section of this report.

The majority of the Fijians remain dependent for their livelihood upon the produce of their lands. The past year has shown a very satisfactory recovery from the effects of hurricanes and floods. Throughout the whole Group native foodstuffs have been more than sufficient for the needs of the people. The experiences of the last few years have impressed upon the natives the wisdom of planting at least a portion of their crops above the reach of floods. The yield of the copra plantations has steadily improved, and by the end of the year had returned almost to normal. Unfortunately the market price of copra was low and the increased yield did not result in an equal increase in the incomes of the Fijians. In the same manner, the recovery in the banana plantations, most of which are native-owned, was offset by the introduction of the quota system under which the export of bananas to New Zealand was severely limited. A portion of the surplus fruit was exported to Australia under the reduced customs duties agreed upon at the Ottawa Conference, but a considerable quantity of native-grown fruit could not be marketed. On the other hand, the year showed an increase in the quantity of sugar-cane grown by the natives. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company's scheme of settling Fijians on cane lands as tenant farmers continued successfully and was considerably enlarged. This scheme appears now to be firmly established. Apart from providing for the men actually settled on the Company's lands, it is influencing a considerable number of Fijians to cultivate sugar cane on their own tribal lands and in accordance with modern practice. As there are considerable areas of native lands comparatively uncultivated, this development is likely to prove of value to the native and the Colony. The practical training of Fijians, in the Sigatoka Valley, in modern methods of cultivation and harvesting of crops continued to progress and to receive the enthusiastic support of the natives. In many districts the natives have taken readily to the use of implements and animals, and their ability to adapt themselves to modern requirements gives promise of their future prosperity as agriculturists.

CHAPTER XV.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics and Allied Questions.

For financial reasons there has been no census since the year 1924, but according to the figures given in the report of the Registrar-General the total Indian population is now calculated at 78,975, an increase of 2,253 during the year. The infant mortality rate fell from 9.90 per 100 in 1931 to 6.88 in 1932, a decrease of 3.02.

The vital statistics for the year may be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and they provide a clear indication of the steady progress in this direction of the Indian community under climatic and economic conditions that are eminently suited to its development. Until quite recently the figures of the Indian population were markedly affected by immigration and emigration. Emigration has declined approximately from 973 in 1924 to 330 in 1932. Immigration commenced its most recent decline after the year 1930 when, both from economic causes, and in the interests of the establishment by natural means of equality in numbers of the sexes (the proportion of females to males being still as low as approximately 7 females to 10 males), the Government was obliged to introduce measures to restrict the immigration on a large scale of unattached Indian males. The total number of immigrants who entered the Colony by overseas vessels in 1932 was 209, and there was a small increase of 121 in the number of emigrants over the number of immigrants. The close approximation of the figures for immigration and emigration that has been reached during recent years is an indication that the vital statistics are no longer markedly influenced by the ebb and flow of population, and that the figure 78,975 is a close estimate of the stable population of Indians in the Colony.

In view of the steady maintenance of a rising birth-rate, of a falling death-rate, and of a low rate of infant mortality, it has not been necessary to supplement the medical facilities that are already available to Indians by that particular concentration on child welfare work which was found to be necessary in the case of the native Fijians. On their first arrival in the Colony Indians have experienced little difficulty in conforming with western economic ideas and conditions, and the adaptation required of them in their new environment was limited to climatic and other matters that have proved almost entirely favourable to them. On the other hand, the Fijian race has suffered in its own country the severe shock of sudden contact with an entirely new civilisation, which thrust upon it the necessity to compete with social and economic forces that were beyond its comprehension, and introduced new epidemic diseases to the infection of which the natives have proved to be very susceptible.

On the basis of their respective rates of increase it has generally been assumed that the Indian population would reach a position of parity with that of the Fijians in from ten to fifteen years. The Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, Western Pacific Health Service, who has studied this important question from the point of view of a competent observer, has stated that the information in his possession, which has been obtained from a close study of the figures of Indian immigration and emigration and of the vital statistics of the two races, indicates that if the steady increase of recent years is maintained in the Fijians, the populations of the two races may not finally reach a position of parity for another twenty-five or thirty years.

Emigration and Immigration.

REPATRIATION.

Repatriation falls under the provisions of Ordinance No. 24 of 1930, and certain limitations are fixed to the rights to free passages of the post-1906 class.

The Government has continued to avail itself of the direct steamer service to India to discharge its obligations with respect to repatriation, and the s.s *Ganges* which sailed for India on the 14th May took 172 souls, equivalent to 152¼ statute adults, who were provided with free passages to India at the expense of the Fiji Government. Included in this total is the unusually large number of 42 lepers who were returned to India at their own request and at the Government's expense. In cases where it was necessary the Government also provided free passages for the dependants of lepers.

The present position with regard to repatriation is indicated in the following table of the figures for the past ten years :—

	Souls.	*Statute adults.*
1923	923	828½
1924	977	839
1925	nil	nil
1926	1,180	989
1927	977	837
1928	924	783½
1929	546	475½
1930	508	457
1931	171	152½
1932	172	152¼

The equality of the figures in respect of the years 1931 and 1932 was due to the large number of lepers who were repatriated with their dependants in the latter year.

GENERAL.

In addition to the 171 Government passengers to India, 159 Indians left the Colony by various routes during the year, bringing the total of Indian emigration up to 330. The total number of Indians who came to the Colony by overseas vessels during the year was 209. They were mostly made up of the small trader and laundryman classes, and of Indians domiciled in Fiji returning from a holiday trip to India.

The direct service to India both provides an economic way for the Government to discharge its repatriation liability, and accords with the aspirations of many Indians to be in direct communication with their country of origin. If the steady decline in the demand for repatriation continues the service will have to rely for its chief support on ordinary inward and outward passengers and on inward cargo to Fiji.

Economic.

The general improvement in the economic position of the Indian community has been well maintained. The question of affording security of tenure to the subtenants of irregular small-holdings is engaging the attention of Government. In the sugar industry their position has altered from that of labourers to producers, and while there has been a great increase in recent years of the numbers of Fijians engaged both as growers and labourers, Indians continue to hold the largest share in the Colony's principal industry. The 1932 output of sugar-cane exceeded all previous records and amounted to 971,742 tons valued at £698,513, the average price per ton being 14s. 4½d. The success of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's tenant farmer system has been established for some years, and the greater part of the Company's cane-land is now held by Indian growers, a further extensive area being held by independent cane-farmers.

The value of the sugar industry to Indians cannot be estimated solely on the basis of the number directly engaged as growers and labourers. A large number of Indians who live in and around the sugar areas depend for their livelihood on markets that are made available at the sugar centres, while an increasing number of Indian traders of all descriptions have established more or less profitable businesses in the townships that are springing up around the mills and elsewhere.

The year was a favourable one for the cultivation of rice, and markets and prices were well maintained with the aid of measures that have been adopted to protect the industry, which included the milling of surplus rice by the Government and regulation of the price of imported rice. Although Indians engaged in the cultivation of rice have had opportunities to observe the advantages of scientific cultivation, many of them continue to hold with great obstinacy to their primitive methods with the result that the output is below the productive capacity of the soil; and the profits of growers are unnecessarily small. The importance of rice as a staple food for the Colony's increasing population justifies the efforts that are being made by the Agricultural Department to teach Indians to produce it along sound economic lines.

It was found necessary temporarily to suspend the cotton operations pending some improvement in the markets, and the successful issue of certain experiments that are intended to produce a marketable variety of cotton that is suited to local conditions. The loss has been severely felt by Indian cotton growers who are experiencing difficulty in finding a marketable substitute for their cotton.

Up to the present time the West Coast Pines Company has succeeded in marketing its produce without incurring serious losses, and some hundred odd Indians are profitably engaged as pineapple farmers.

Although very few Indians are employed in the livestock industry Indians rank high as owners of stock, and the number of peasants who own a few cattle or horses affords an indication of the comfortable position of this class of Indian.

The return of business occupations shows a steady increase in the number of Indians who are engaged in trading enterprises of various kinds.

During the past three or four years there have been rumours from time to time of the existence of unemployment, but they have proved on investigation to be fictitious. The position would appear to be that while the Indian community as a whole has suffered very little from the depression, that small section of it which is dependent on Europeans for domestic and other employment has suffered to the extent to which the European, in his reduced circumstances, has been unable to afford employment, or to pay wages at the old high rates. While there is no indication of the existence of actual unemployment, and nothing to justify it in the present economic state of the Colony, there is a tendency towards a small reduction from the former high level of wages in domestic and allied services.

During the year, disputes arose in connection with working hours in the tailoring and laundrymen's trades in the Suva area. These businesses are almost entirely in the hands of immigrants from Bombay who import their assistants from India and rarely afford employment to local Indians. The trades are conducted on essentially Indian lines by means of an intricate balance between wages plus perquisites on the one hand and working hours on the other which satisfies both parties and accords with Oriental standards, but is difficult to gauge by Western standards. It would be difficult to arbitrate in disputes of this nature without upsetting the whole fabric upon which the success of such trades is built, and it is therefore fortunate that the degree to which the Government was called upon to intervene was limited to its acceptance of a satisfactory assurance from the employees of their complete concurrence in the settlements that were quickly arrived at by agreement between the parties in both instances.

Social.

It may be said that social progress is keeping pace with economic, and the tendency to observe the tenets of Indian religions is not accompanied by any general inclination to resort to the caste system, although some of the religious leaders have been recruited in India. During the year there were signs of friction within the ranks both of the orthodox Hindu and of the Muslim religions, the former having apparently been due to the rival claims for leadership of two Pandits, and the latter to the resentment of orthodox Muslims against a preacher of the Ahmadya sect. Neither dispute was attended with serious consequences.

Many of the graver faults in the social life of Indians have been attributable to the disparity in numbers of the sexes which is gradually adjusting itself in the natural increase of population.

There can be no doubt that the practice of bartering young females is steadily declining, and that this is chiefly a result of the opposition to it of public opinion. It has also been noticed that better appreciation of the advantages of legal marriage is lessening the number of irregular unions, which have caused so much distress in the matter of succession to property.

It is probably in their homes that the best illustration is to be found of the steady social progress of Indians, where there is a general tendency towards a higher standard of home life and a stricter observance of domestic responsibilities. While the general standard of housing is steadily improving, even the poorest classes are frequently at pains to keep their houses clean and comfortable and to make the exterior as attractive as possible by planting trees and flowering shrubs in the surrounding plots. This upward tendency in the home life has received perhaps its greatest stimulus from the officers of the Medical and Sanitary Departments in their efforts to improve the sanitary condition of the Colony as a whole, but it is greatly to the credit of Indians that they have co-operated so well with the sanitary authorities and that they follow so closely the example that has been set them.

Political.

After the Indian members had resigned from the Legislative Council in October, 1929, a boycott was maintained until the Council was finally dissolved on the 30th June, 1932, but there were no further political events of importance or other evidence tending to show that the Indian masses were seriously interested. The achievement of common roll representation continues to be the stated object of many politically-minded Indians, although during the past three years opinion has become more definitely divided on the question whether this can be attained more expeditiously by co-operation under the present constitution, or by maintaining a boycott of the Council. Divided opinion is leading towards the formation of two parties whose respective strength is difficult to estimate in view of the fact that those who favour a boycott, being better organized and better led, are the more articulate. Arguments have been confined to the vocal sections on both sides, and attempts to arouse the interest of the electorates appear to have met with very little response. Outside of politics leaders on both sides have proved equally helpful and reasonable when invited by the Government to discuss matters affecting Indians.

The elections in August were accomplished with very little demonstration. The Member for the Northern Division was returned unopposed, and in the Southern Division a contest between a co-operationist candidate and a non-co-operationist candidate resulted in a win for the latter.

Administrative.

Mr. J. R. Pearson, C.I.E., left the Colony on the 14th May, prior to his retirement on the termination of his five years' appointment on the 28th of that month. The Colony as a whole, and the Indian community in particular, obtained a great advantage from his work and from his knowledge and experience of Indian affairs. Dr. V. W. T. McGusty succeeded Mr. Pearson, holding conjointly with the post of Secretary for Indian Affairs his former appointments as Governor's Commissioner and Inspecting Medical Officer. The new post of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs was created at the same time with the dual object of assisting the administration of the department, and of giving to selected District Commissioners special experience in Indian affairs. It is intended that the officer selected to hold this appointment shall be seconded from the District Administration.

Early in the year effect was given to a decision of His Excellency the Governor to appoint representative Indians to sit on Advisory Committees under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioners in the principal Indian districts. The first of these Committees commenced to function early in the year in the district of Rewa, and other Committees were subsequently appointed in the districts of Navua, Macuata, Nadroga, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba and Ra. The Indian community has given clear evidence of its appreciation of the Government's action, and the members of the various Committees are zealously working to assist the District Commissioners to maintain the closest possible touch with Indian affairs.

Education.

The Government's obligations with regard to Indian education are carried out in Government schools, of which there are now seven in the Colony, and by the system of grants-in-aid whereunder financial assistance is given to private Indian schools. The Government schools are all patronised to their fullest capacity, and being established in different centres throughout the Colony they set an example which is of value to the owners of private schools. The grant-in-aid system affords the great advantage of encouraging private enterprise among Indians in the establishment of schools, and while it serves to maintain the standard of education at a suitable level, it is also a convenient method of obtaining a reasonable contribution from Indians towards the cost of their education at a period in their evolution when specific taxation on an equitable basis has proved most difficult to devise. Four additional Indian schools were admitted to grant-in-aid during the year, bringing the total of such assisted schools up to forty-one.

The rolls of Indian schools contain the names of 3,608 boys and 1,076 girls, and the average attendance was 81 per cent.

Teachers are trained at the Government Teachers' Training School at Lautoka, and at the Methodist and Roman Catholic Mission institutions which receive financial assistance from the

Government. A higher standard of efficiency is now required of the teachers, and out of 142 Indian students who sat for their Certificate examination 34 obtained complete passes, and another 41 obtained partial passes. The results of requiring a better class of teacher are becoming apparent in the rapid disappearance of the old type of inefficient village schoolmaster, and his replacement by a type of young man who is very much better equipped for the duties of a teacher.

The standard of all schools is well maintained by a system of regular inspections by the Inspector of Indian Schools.

CHAPTER XVI.

LEGISLATION.

Forty-two Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1932, of which the following are the principal :—

The Electricity Ordinance is an enabling measure designed to give the Governor-in-Council control of the generation and supply of electricity, and for that purpose power is given to the Governor-in-Council to proclaim areas within which electricity may not be generated, distributed, or supplied without a licence, and to make regulations. Regulations of standard form are included in the Schedule.

Probably by an oversight, the principles of the Imperial Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1879, had never been applied to the Colony. *The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance* supplies the omission.

The Legitimacy Ordinance brings the law relating to children born out of wedlock into line with conventional modern practice.

The Usurious Loans Ordinance, which follows closely the provisions of the Indian Usurious Loans Act, 1918, enables a Court in any action for the recovery of a loan or the enforcement of any security to reopen the transaction when the interest is excessive and the transaction as between the parties is substantially unfair.

The Jurors and Assessors Ordinance provides machinery for the preparation of lists of jurors and assessors by the Chief Justice for both civil and criminal cases. The repealed provisions of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance dealt of course only with jurors and assessors in criminal cases, and whereas the list of jurors was revised by the Chief Justice, the list of assessors was drawn up by the Colonial Secretary and revised by Executive Council. The practice has now been consolidated in the hands of the Chief Justice.

The Obscene Publications Ordinance makes it an offence to put into circulation in any manner obscene books, papers, or other objects. Provision is made, on the lines of the Imperial Obscene Publications Act, 1857, for the issue of search warrants by District Commissioners and the destruction of obscene articles.

The Liquor Ordinance consolidates and brings up to date the liquor laws of the Colony. Special provision is made with regard to the sale of liquor to children and young persons, and the employment of women and natives in bars is prohibited.

The Informations Ordinance enacts substantially the provisions of the Indictments Act, 1915, and follows the practice obtaining in most Crown Colonies.

The Sale of Goods Ordinance follows the form of the Sale of Goods Act, 1893. Previously the law of sale in the Colony had been the English law as at 1st January, 1875. The difficulty of ascertaining this had tended to increase, and the applicability of English authorities was sometimes a matter of doubt.

The Stock Improvement Ordinance provides for the inspection of bulls and stallions and the issue of licences in respect thereof. An inspector may direct any bull or stallion unfit for the purpose of breeding to be castrated.

The Juvenile Offenders Ordinance sets up juvenile courts, and provides for the appointment of probation officers, for the establishment of places of detention, and for the making of probation orders. The method of custody of young offenders when under arrest or after committal, the abolition of the death sentence in the case of children and young persons, and their detention in places of detention is also dealt with.

Certain amendments of the law relating to road traffic are effected by the *Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance* on the lines of the Road Traffic Act, 1930.

PARTICULARS OF FACTORY LEGISLATION, COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS LEGISLATION, AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SICKNESS, OLD AGE, ETC.

The only legislation on any of the above subjects is the Steam Boilers Ordinance, 1915, which provides for compensation for accidents to persons in connexion with steam boilers. A bill relating to the payment of compensation to workmen has been drafted and is under consideration.

CHAPTER XVII.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	—	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	—	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	—	147,140
1932 ...	547,461	528,604	449,743	283,746	—	165,997

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931 but increased at the end of 1932 to £165,997. These figures, however, are exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of the year under review at £136,543, an increase in 10 years of £62,261. This Fund is earmarked for a specific purpose and the item is shown in the balance sheet both as an asset and a liability. A further item in the balance sheet is the Emergency Reserve Fund, which amounted to £37,225 at the end of 1932, an increase in five years of £4,225.

During the year 1931 a Government Vessels Replacement Fund was opened and amounted to £3,944 at the close of the year.

Debt.

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1932, was as under:—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928) ...	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929)	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932)	154,996
Total	£1,091,404

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent. and being issued at 101.

A second loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. During that year, £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. This loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Public Works Loan, sufficient to produce £160,000, was raised in 1932 by the Crown Agents in two instalments, on 2nd August and 3rd November, at the price of £102 and £105 respectively for each £100 of stock. This loan bears interest at 4 per cent. and Sinking Fund contribution is at the rate of 2.32 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st February, 1959.

The Sinking Fund in connexion with the Specific Loan amounted to £26,372 at the close of the year. A Supplementary Sinking Fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £16,581. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £2,306 at the close of the year.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to £547,461, a decrease of £17,932 as compared with 1931. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows :—

	£
Customs	262,779
Port, wharfage, and light dues	19,128
Native taxes	13,399
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified	87,384
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes and reimbursements-in-aid	70,364
Post Office	27,826
Rent of Government property	13,737
Interest	37,510
Miscellaneous	15,324
Land sales and premia on leases	10

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income-tax were £17,826, £3,998, and £24,458 respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £22,203. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-Accountant by March of each year. Penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is, in general, on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on the value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment, provided that British Empire material and labour represent not less than 25 per cent. of the value of the goods, and that the final processes of manufacture are performed within the Empire.

On most articles the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 35 per cent. *ad valorem.* On imports on which a specific rate of duty is levied the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating kerosene, power kerosene, and benzine, on which duties of 9d., 1s. 3d., and 5d. per gallon are levied irrespective of country of origin. As a result of the Ottawa Conference the special concession previously given in respect of some 20 specified imports from certain scheduled countries, namely, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Hong Kong, was removed, and imports from all parts of the British Empire were placed on the same footing.

The following articles, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty :—aircraft and accessories, appliances to correct a deformity of the human body, certain specified educational material, articles imported for Boy Scout and Girl Guide Associations, bags and sacks over two bushels, butter boxes, cans partly made for use as containers of Fiji produce, sail canvas not less than British standard No. 6 in weight, casks for use as containers of Fiji produce, coal and coke, furniture imported for churches, approved infants' foods, insecticides for agricultural uses, muntz metal and copper sheathing, oakum, sulphur, tar and bitumen, tin plate, approved weed killers, galvanized wire netting not less than 4-inch mesh, galvanized plain wire not less than No. 10 British gauge, galvanized barbed wire and staples not less than No. 14 British gauge, fencing posts, gates, and standards and droppers for fencing, other than ornamental iron or steel. The above articles, if of foreign manufacture, pay a duty of 15 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries :—animals and birds, bacteriological products, ships' ballast, books, periodicals and music printed, cinematograph cameras and films for cinematographs, coconuts, collections of antiques for public institutions, natural history specimens, containers used in the export of products of the Colony, copra, gas and ammonia cylinders, manures, crude and diesel oil, plants and seeds, used and unused postage stamps, and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty :—agricultural implements and butter making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, if of British manufacture, and 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, if of foreign manufacture. Agricultural machines, fruit and meat canning machinery, steam boilers, oil engines, timber milling and sawing machinery and electrical machinery, pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following are the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty :—ale and beer in bottles 4s. a gallon British preferential rate and 6s. a gallon general rate; confectionery 3d. a lb. plus 10 per cent. and 6d. a lb. plus 25 per cent.; plain soap 1d. a lb. and 2d. a lb.; tobacco, manufactured, 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber, rough, 2s. and 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber, dressed, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines, still, 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines, sparkling, 10s. and 15s. a gallon.

The following articles pay 20 per cent. British preferential and 40 per cent. *ad valorem* general rates of duty :—bacon and hams, biscuits, bran, cheese, fish, flax and hemp, dried fruit, golden syrup and treacle, hay and chaff, lard and dripping, and fancy soap.

The Legislative Council in October amended the Tariff by increasing the rates of duty imposed on the following articles, if of foreign manufacture :—boots and shoes, rubber, canvas with rubber soles, increased duty 2s. per pair; motor vehicles including motor cycles, component parts and accessories thereof, including tyres and tubes, duty increased to 40 per cent.; timber, undressed, increased to 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber, dressed, to 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; and timber, other, increased to 40 per cent.

CHAPTER XVIII.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Observations are taken each day of the year, including weekends and public holidays, at 2030 and 0330 G.M.T., or 8.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Fiji standard time.

There has been no alteration in the method of taking observations, except that from 1st September additional observations were taken, at the request of the Meteorological Office, London, in connexion with the second international Polar year.

The table below gives a concise summary of observations for the year :—

MONTHLY MEANS FOR THE YEAR 1932, SUVA STATION, TAKEN AT 8.30 A.M. AND 3.30 P.M.

Months.	*Mean Pressure in inches.*		*Air Temperature (F°).*												*Mean Vapour Pressure in Millibars.*		*Mean Relative Humidity (Saturation = 100).*		*Mean amount of Cloud (0—10).*		*Mean Bright Sunshine (Hours and Tenths).*
			Mean Dry Bulb.		*Mean Wet Bulb.*		*Means of*		*Mean.*	*Absolute Max. and Min.*											
							Max.	*Min.*		*Max.*	*Date.*	*Min.*	*Date.*								
	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*									8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	
January ...	29·747	29·685	80·2	82·9	75·3	76·4	85·4	74·5	80·0	91	1	69	20	27·8	28·1	79·6	73·7	7·6	7·3	5·2
February..	29·790	29·723	81·0	83·9	76·6	77·4	86·6	75·2	80·9	92	19	70	9, 10	29·5	29·3	81·7	74·2	7·0	6·4	6·9
March ...	29·864	29·778	80·7	83·6	75·8	76·8	86·2	74·6	80·4	90	6	71	4, 6	28·4	28·7	79·6	73·2	6·3	6·7	6·5
April ...	29·861	29·787	78·8	80·8	74·5	75·3	83·7	73·4	78·6	89	27	68	25	27·3	27·4	81·3	77·3	7·2	6·9	4·7
May ...	29·937	29·864	78·6	80·8	75·5	76·4	84·0	73·8	78·9	89	18	72	13,17, 23	28·9	29·0	86·4	81·7	6·6	7·5	4·4
June ...	29·963	29·884	76·0	78·7	71·5	72·3	80·9	70·1	75·5	87	1	65	19	24·5	24·7	80·0	73·9	5·8	5·7	5·6
July ...	29·928	29·849	74·5	77·7	70·8	71·9	79·6	69·9	74·8	87	4	65	20	24·2	24·2	83·1	74·6	6·3	6·8	4·5
August ...	30·006	29·938	73·6	75·4	69·8	70·1	78·0	69·0	73·5	83	11	65	17	23·1	22·9	82·3	76·7	7·4	7·4	3·7
September	29·973	29·892	77·2	79·1	72·4	73·0	82·4	71·0	76·7	90	28	65	9	25·3	25·2	78·7	74·0	6·5	6·9	5·6
October ...	29·972	29·892	78·3	80·7	73·0	73·8	83·2	72·8	78·0	92	25	68	3	25·4	25·6	77·0	71·7	7·4	7·1	5·0
November.	29·900	29·836	78·9	80·4	74·3	74·7	83·4	73·3	78·3	88	10	69	1, 2	27·0	27·0	80·0	76·5	8·1	8·0	4·5
December.	29·793	29·736	79·8	81·9	75·6	76·8	85·8	74·5	80·2	91	9	72	2,5,6, 7, 8	28·3	29·2	81·9	79·0	7·5	8·3	4·6
Year ...	29·895	29·822	78·1	80·5	73·8	74·6	83·3	72·7	78·0	—	—	—	—	26·6	26·8	81·0	75·5	7·0	7·1	5·1

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Highest Pressure—30·114″ at 8.30 a.m. on October 4th.
Lowest Pressure—29·457″ at 3.30 p.m. on February 9th.
Highest Temperature in Shade—92° on February 19th and October 25th.
Lowest Temperature in Shade—65° on June 19th, July 20th, August 17th and September 9th.
Greatest Range—19° on March 6th.
Least Range—1° on July 5th.
Greatest Amount of Rain in 24 hours—5·73″ on July 5th.

DESCRIPTIVE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY.

January.—Between 16th and 20th a cyclonic disturbance passed a short distance east of Lomaloma, Lau, moving S.E. and passing over the Tongan Islands.

On 24th and 26th a cyclone passed W. and S. of Suva, moving S.E. It caused heavy rain on the north and west coast of Vitilevu, 12.64 inches of rain falling at Nadarivatu (the Government hill station) on 24th, out of a total of 64.39 inches for the month.

February.—In Suva mainly dry and very hot.

Between 4th and 10th a cyclonic disturbance passed N.W., W. and S. of Suva moving about S.S.E. Exceptionally heavy rain fell on N. and W. coasts of Vitilevu, flooding the main rivers of the island. 89.88 inches of rain fell at Nadarivatu during the month.

March.—On 9th a severe earth tremor occurred at approximately 6h. 1m. lasting approximately 16 seconds. It was felt generally throughout the group and is reported to have lasted approximately 80 seconds at Savusavu, 40 at Taveuni, and 20 at Labasa. Several landslides occurred on the island of Koro, and the lighthouse at Point Alldin was thrown 3 feet out of the perpendicular.

11th to 13th. On 11th March a depression to the N.W. of Samoa developed into a cyclone and after moving S.W. it recurved and moved S.E., the centre passing approximately 30 miles north of Vavau (Tonga) between 0340 and 0410 G.M.T. on 13th. The lowest barometer reported from Vavau was 28.224 at 0410 G.M.T. 13th, and the wind reached force 10 from E.S.E., and W.S.W.

26th. A slight earth tremor occurred at approximately 1h. 10m. lasting approximately 6 seconds.

The total rainfall at Nadarivatu for the first quarter amounted to 203.58 inches which is 71.33 inches greater than the average annual fall.

April.—A wet and squally month.

May.—A warm and very humid month for this season of the year.

June.—A dry month, the rainfall being only 2.43 inches.

July.—A very wet month, with rain on 20 days totalling 15.04 inches, whereas the average for the last 48 years is only 5.23 inches.

August.—The latter part of the month was wet with gentle to fresh trade winds generally . Although no heavy falls were recorded, drizzle, light rain, squally and gloomy weather prevailed for the greater part of the period.

September.—A dry month.

October.—The total rainfall, 8.35 inches, was slightly above normal, but 51 per cent. fell between 0h. and 8h. 30m. on 31st October.

November.—Dull and squally, with many sudden variations in temperature, e.g., at 10h. on 10th the temperature fell from 88° to 80.5° at 11h. 40m., then rose to 87° falling suddenly to 83.5° at 12h. 40m.

And again at 12h. 19m. on 11th the temperature fell suddenly from 86.2° to 80.2°, then rose rapidly to 86°, falling suddenly from 82° to 76° in the evening.

December.—Normal for the time of year, hot, humid, and dull.

RAINFALL.

Rain fell in Suva on 258 days during the year, totalling 121.69 inches, being 4.07 inches more than the average for 48 years.

WIRELESS AND WEATHER.

The Weather Reporting Scheme for the Western Pacific which was inaugurated in 1923 is gradually extending, the number of reporting stations having increased from nine to twenty-nine. Suva is the central reporting station, and during the hurricane season it is possible to give warnings of practically all cyclonic disturbances in this portion of the Pacific.

Rotumah has been a very welcome addition to the reporting stations since the new wireless station was installed there. The island lies some 200 miles to the north of the Fiji group, and is thus particularly valuable in providing information regarding disturbances likely to affect Fiji.

CHAPTER XIX.

GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., left the Colony on 18th November for the United Kingdom on leave. During his absence the Government is being administered by the Honourable A. W. Seymour, V.D., Colonial Secretary.

When the Estimates for 1932 were passed by the Legislative Council in October, 1931, a revenue of £544,878 was budgeted for and an expenditure of £544,689, leaving an excess of estimated revenue over estimated expenditure of £189. The actual revenue for the year was £547,461 and the actual expenditure £528,604, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of £18,857. As this result was obtained without the imposition of any additional taxation and without having recourse to any reduction in the emoluments of civil servants, it can be regarded as highly satisfactory.

The Colony's prosperity is largely dependent on its sugar crop. In 1932 there was a record crop and the Imperial preference has guaranteed a market. Copra prices, on the other hand, have remained low, and at times reached a point which left no margin of profit to the planters. New possibilities were opened up for the banana industry as the result of an agreement arrived at by the Ottawa Conference whereby the Australian Government agreed to allow 40,000 centals of Fiji bananas into Australia yearly under a reduced customs duty. There was little expansion in minor industries, but on the whole the Colony can be said to have suffered less than many others as a result of the prevailing world depression.

The Colony was fortunate in escaping any of the severe cyclonic disturbances which are prevalent in the Pacific during the months from December to April. An unusually severe earthquake was felt on the 9th March.

Five sessions of the Legislative Council were held during the year, in February, June, October, November, and December. In the February session an Ordinance was passed authorising the raising of a Public Works Loan of £160,000 for financing the transinsular road across Vitilevu, extensions to the Suva water supply, and capital works at the Central Leper Hospital, Makogai.

At the October session two Indian Elected Members took their seats for the first time since the Indian Members resigned their seats in 1929 on the issue of a Common Electoral Roll. A motion on this subject was again introduced by the two new members, but they agreed to withdraw it on an undertaking being given that a copy of the motion and of the full debate would be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

At the October session the Budget for 1933 was passed with an estimated revenue of £568,050 and an estimated expenditure of £558,330: the excess of estimated revenue over estimated expenditure being £9,720. The Council also passed the legislation necessary to implement the various agreements entered into at the Ottawa Conference on behalf of Fiji.

During the month of August the Colony was visited by His Majesty's ships *Diomede, Veronica and Laburnum.*

The Honourable Ratu Veli, Roko Tui Macuata, and a Fijian Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty the King. Ratu Veli has spent almost a lifetime in the service of the Crown, was present with a Fijian detachment at the coronation of King Edward, and later represented the Colony at the Wembley Exhibition.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
Fiji and Fijians. By Thomas Williams. 1870.	Hodder & Stoughton, London	6s.
Fijian Society. By Rev. W. Deane. 1921.	Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London	16s.
Fiji—Its Problems and Resources. By Major W. A. Chapple. 1921.	Whitcombe & Tombs, Ltd., London.	9s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster. 1922.	Seeley Service & Co., Ltd. London.	21s.
Fiji and Fijians, 1835-1856. By G. C. Henderson. 1931.	Angus & Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London.	25s.
The Colony of Fiji, 1874-1931. ...	Government Printer, Fiji, and Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.	4s. (Paper) 6s. (Library binding).
Fiji Blue Book for 1932	Government Printer, Fiji, and Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.	5s.

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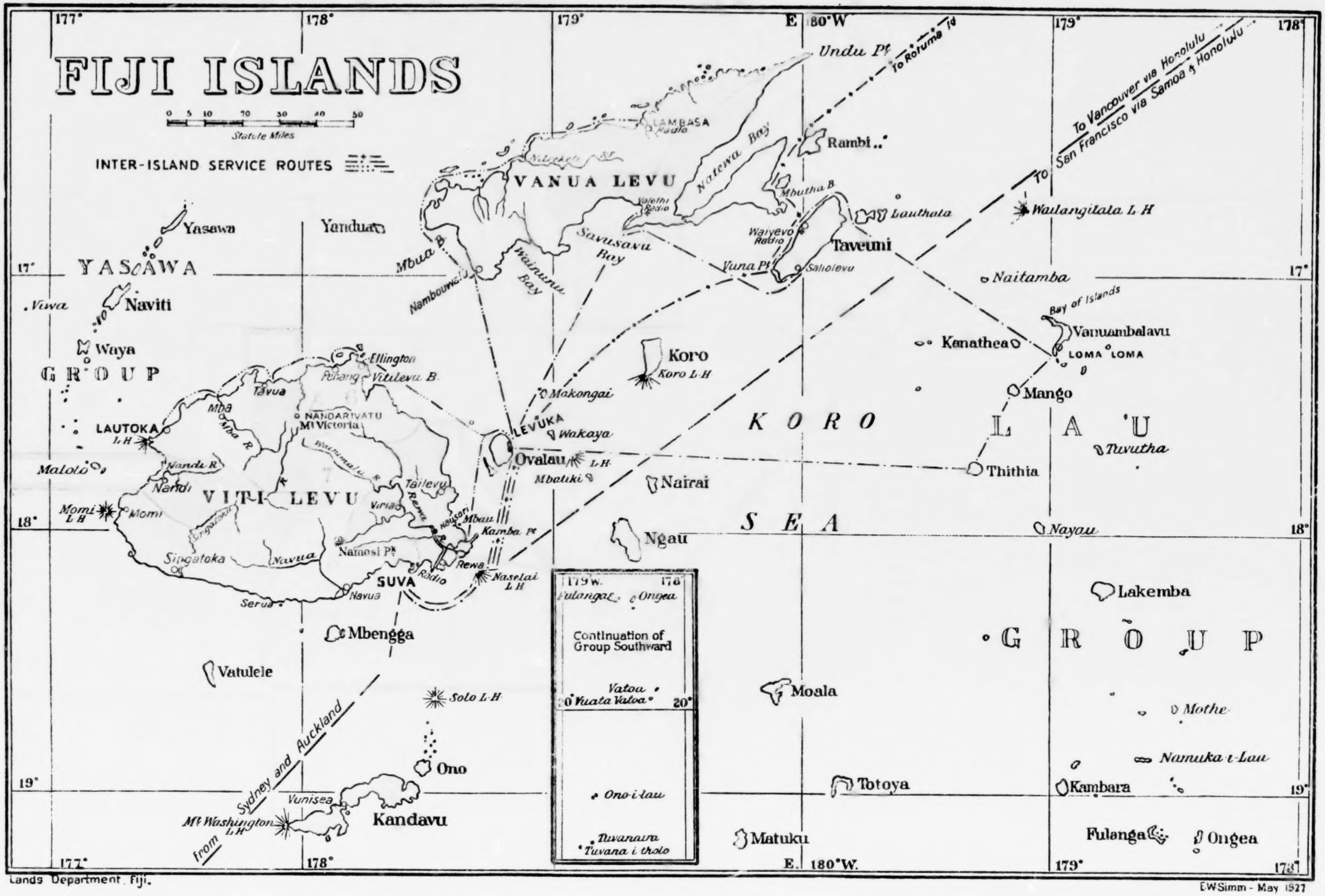
FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Statute Miles
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
177°
178°
179°
E 180°W
179°
178°
17°
18°
19°
20°
Undu Pt
To Rotuma Id
To Vancouver via Honolulu
To San Francisco via Samoa & Honolulu
LAMBASA
Radio
Rambi
VANUA LEVU
Natewa Bay
Mbutha B.
Valethi Radio
Savusavu Bay
Waiyevo Radio
Taveuni
Lauthala
Wailangilala L.H
Vuna Pt
Salialevu
Naitamba
Bay of Islands
Vanuambalavu
LOMA LOMA
Kanathea
Mango
Yasawa
Yandua
YASAWA
GROUP
Naviti
Viwa
Waya
Mbua B.
Nambouwalu
Wainunu Bay
Koro
Koro L.H
Makongai
Ellington
Penang
Vitilevu B.
Tavua
Mba
NANDARIVATU
Mt Victoria
LEVUKA
Wakaya
Ovalau
L.H.
Mbatiki
LAUTOKA
L.H.
Mba R.
Malolo
Nandi R.
Nandi
VITI LEVU
Wainimala R.
Tailevu
Rewa R.
Viria
Momi L.H
Momi
Singatoka
Navua
Namosi Pk
Nausori
Mbau
Kamba Pt
Rewa
Naselai L.H
SUVA
Radio
Navua
Serua
Nairai
Ngau
KORO SEA
LAU GROUP
Thithia
Tuvutha
Nayau
Lakemba
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H
Ono
Kandavu
Vunisea
Mt Washington L.H
From Sydney and Auckland
179°W. 178°
Fulanga
Ongea
Continuation of Group Southward
Vatoa
Vuata Vatoa
Ono-i-lau
Tuvanaira
Tuvana i tholo
Moala
Mothe
Namuka-i-Lau
Totoya
Kambara
Matuku
Fulanga
Ongea

Lands Department, Fiji.

E.W.Simm - May 1927

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9*d*. (10*d*.).
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FIJI, 1933

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean. The Fijian Group, which lies between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east, comprises about 250 islands, of which about 80 are inhabited. The largest island is Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kandavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. On Vitilevu fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called " soapstone ") and limestones are extensively found. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nambukelevu, on Kandavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korombasambasanga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate is cool for the tropics, and the country is remarkably free from zymotic and endemic diseases. The malarial mosquito is absent.

The highest temperature at Suva in 1933 was 96 degrees on 10th January, and the lowest 62 degrees on 16th July. The total rainfall was 151·40 inches. The average annual rainfall is 118·30 inches. There is a great variety of temperature and climate to be found in the Group. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, hurricanes and cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Udu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over one hundred and thirty years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774, and Bligh, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of thirty-nine islands including the principal island of Vitilevu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work " Discoverers of the Fiji Islands ".

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza,* with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Mbau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Mbau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Mbau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakemba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Thakaundrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Mbau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Mbauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Mbau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Mbau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Thakombau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society; and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony preferred claims against Thakombau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Thakombau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Thakombau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required ", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858 ". The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton, caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Mbauan Chief, Thakombau, as King of Fiji. A

Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Thakombau, the Chief of Mbau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed to Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main

Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the rate-payers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are two proclaimed townships in the Colony, Nausori in the district of Rewa, and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the Chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Mbau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Mbauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number nearly 81,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of approximately 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population of Fiji on the 31st December, 1933, was as follows :—

> Europeans 4,804; half-castes 3,661; Fijians 96,656; Polynesians 1,878; Indians 80,991; Rotumans 2,521; Chinese 1,476; others 1,251; making a total population of 193,238. Of this total, Fijians comprised 50·02 per cent., Indians 41·91 per cent., and Europeans 2·49 per cent. The estimated population shows an increase of 35,972 since the census of 1921, or an aggregate rate of increase of 22·87 per cent. The European population again shows an estimated decrease, being 59 less than the estimated total for 1932.

On the 31st December, 1933, it was estimated that there were 25·99 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population is estimated at ·34 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population is 180·00 to the square mile.

There were 6,966 births registered during the year, which is an increase of 254 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1927 to 1933 :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Europeans ...	24·78	17·42	19·88	16·94	17·20	16·04	16·03
Half-castes ...	23·08	32·56	35·96	30·30	43·82	38·61	39·88
Fijians ...	32·53	33·36	31·91	36·43	35·34	34·32	35·10
Rotumans ...	50·57	52·21	50·75	54·91	46·95	39·47	50·38
Indians ...	27·72	34·90	34·86	36·02	33·45	38·44	38·67

The Rotuman birth-rate shows a substantial increase while the Indian birth-rate is almost the same as the previous year.

There were 2,847 deaths registered during the year, which is 305 more than in 1932. The following table shows the death rate per thousand of the population for the years 1927 to 1933 :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Europeans ...	9·60	7·62	8·46	9·45	9·09	6·79	8·74
Half-castes ...	7·37	9·39	9·44	14·70	11·03	9·86	9·01
Fijians ...	22·98	24·95	24·66	31·24	22·22	17·88	17·72
Rotumans ...	36·29	51·77	48·10	27·03	14·54	19·12	24·99
Indians ...	9·42	10·80	9·06	12·30	10·19	8·40	11·37

The following table shows the deaths under one year per thousand births :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Indians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Total.*
0·00	41·10	97·85	70·88	94·49	83·55

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1927 to 1933 :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Europeans ...	34	47	46	33	38	32	27
Half-castes ...	16	41	28	21	18	23	40
Fijians ...	760	906	973	744	1,085	766	833
Rotumans ...	28	11	27	15	29	25	26
Indians ...	254	276	879	1,926	954	911	1,071

The marriage-rate per thousand of the population is set out in following table :—

Europeans.	*Half-castes.*	*Fijians.*	*Indians.*	*Rotumans.*	*Total.*
5·62	10·93	8·62	13·22	10·31	10·39

A return of the population and of the marriages, births and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.		Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total Population.	Population to the square mile.	Persons employed in			Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.	
		Males.	Females	Males.	Females.			Agri-culture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial.	Number	Rate per 1,000.		Number	Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.															
Europeans	Fiji ...	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—	—	—
	Rotuma	23	7	—	—										
Half-castes	Fiji ...	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—	—	—
	Rotuma	—	—	29	23										
Fijians ...	...	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—	—	—
Indians ...	...	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634	8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—	—	—
†Polynesians...	...	—	—	1,271	293	1,564	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	...	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese ...	...	—	—	845	65	910	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	...	—	—	431	358	789	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1933.															
Europeans ...	...	2,494	2,310	—	—	4,804	0·65	—	—	—	77	16·03	27	42	8·74
Half-castes ...	...	—	—	1,879	1,782	3,661	0·49	—	—	—	146	39·88	40	33	9·01
Fijians ...	...	—	—	49,530	47,126	96,656	13·00	—	—	—	3,393	35·10	833	1,713	17·72
†Polynesians	...	—	—	1,266	612	1,878	0·25	—	—	—	40	21·30	2	56	29·82
Indians ...	...	—	—	47,621	33,370	80,991	10·89	—	—	—	3,132	38·67	1,071	921	11·37
Rotumans ...	...	—	—	1,266	1,255	2,521	0·34‡	—	—	—	127	50·38	26	63	24·99
Chinese ...	...	—	—	1,340	136	1,476	0·20	—	—	—	22	14·91	—	10	6·78
Others ...	...	—	—	820	431	1,251	0·17	—	—	—	29	23·18	9	9	7·19
Total	...	2,494	2,310	103,722	84,712	193,238	25·99	—	—	—	6,966	36·05	2,008	2,847	14·73

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

‡ Includes Fiji with the Island of Rotuma. The actual population to the square mile in the Island of Rotuma is 180·00.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the Police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) and of Indian and Polynesian immigrants is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of twelve years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1933:—

EMIGRATION—1933.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,204	4,804	45·8
Indians	81	80,991	·1
Chinese	97	1,476	6·6
Others	107	1,251	8·6

IMMIGRATION—1933.

Class.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,755	4,804	36·5
Indians	88	80,991	·1
Chinese	105	1,476	7·1
Others	98	1,251	7·8

IV.—HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population at the end of December, 1933, was 193,238, including Fijians 96,656, Indians 80,991, and Europeans 4,804. The total death-rate per thousand was 14·73 as against 13·42 in 1932, an increase of 1·31; while the birth-rate was 36·05, an increase of ·61 over the year 1932. The Fijian death-rate was 17·72, a decrease of ·16 over the previous year, and the birth-rate 35·10, an increase of ·78 over the 1932 figure. The Indian death-rate was 11·37, an increase of 2·97, and the birth-rate 38·67, an increase of ·23 over the figure for 1932.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of fourteen Medical Officers under the direct control of the Chief Medical Officer, and an Inspecting Medical Officer whose services are only partly devoted to medical work. A qualified bacteriolgist has charge of a bacteriological laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. In Suva, the principal port of entry, the Medical Officer of Health is responsible for quarantine and sanitation, assisted by a staff of three European, one Fijian, and two Indian Sanitary Inspectors. During the year, pratique was granted to 142 vessels entering the port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 4,052 passengers, 4,153 members of crews and 194 labourers.

In the country districts the control of health matters and sanitation is in the hands of twelve District Medical Officers, 58 Native Medical Practitioners, and four Indian Medical Practitioners. There is also one European Sanitary Inspector, who is at present seconded to the Rockefeller Foundation as officer in charge of the soil sanitation campaign, and six Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

A very complete system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 120 beds, an operating theatre and X-ray plant, and caters for all classes of the community. During the year, 2,509 persons were admitted, and the daily average number of in-patients was 104·83. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The Australian Nursing Association accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examinations. The medical and nursing staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron, five trained Sisters and thirteen European Probationer Nurses. In addition there are 21 Native Nurses in training.

The Methodist Mission conduct a hospital for Indian women at Ba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Ba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are 14 provincial hospitals and some 29 dispensaries in the Colony where Fijians and Indians may obtain free medical treatment.

The Central Medical School, erected five years ago, is situated in the Suva Hospital grounds, and includes lecture-rooms, library, museum, laboratory, dissecting rooms, and two separate dormitories. The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and maintenance of the School. The teaching staff now consists of a whole-time tutor and fourteen honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students who are all boarders, include 19 Fijians, 1 Indian, 4 Tongans, 4 Samoans, 4 Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, 1 Cook Islander, 3 Solomon Islanders, and 1 from the New Hebrides, making a total of 37 on 31st December. Dormitory accommodation is available for a maximum number of 40 students.

The syllabus of instruction, which now covers a period of four years, is divided into three sections; the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy, and physiology; and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, mid-wifery, etc.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as medical practitioners, and they are then given appointments in country districts, or are attached to a hospital under an Eurpoean Medical Officer. A subordinate Medical Service has thus been created consisting of 58 Native Medical Practitioners and five Indian Medical Practitioners. In addition the Central Medical School has already turned out twenty similarly qualified native medical practitioners who are in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Central Medical School took the place of the former Fiji Medical School, at which from the years 1888 to 1928 Fijian students received training in medicine.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of a Central Executive Committee of which the Secretary for Native Affairs is the present Chairman, has been firmly established in the Colony, and since it inception in 1927, has progressed steadily. The Inspecting Medical Officer, during his tours of inspection, has done much to organize and establish Child Welfare Committees in the more remote parts of the Colony, and has greatly stimulated native interest in the scheme. In practically every village of the Colony Child Welfare Committees have been established each of which is responsible to the Child Welfare worker in charge of the district. There are four trained European Nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by ten specially trained Native Nurses. Infant mortality among Fijian children under the age of five years during the years 1931, 1932, and 1933 is as follows:—

	1931.	1932.	1933
Under one month	107	90	88
Over one month, under one year	267	236	244
Over one year, under five years	251	140	174

Health and Sanitation.

The health of the Colony has been good. Mild influenza occurred throughout the year, whooping cough without pneumonic complications was reported from July to November but neither reached epidemic proportions.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—The para-Shiga dysentery or Schmidtz's bacillus was isolated for the first time in Fiji from two severe cases in a brother and sister aged 2¼ years and 5 years, the sister succumbing. Sonne's dysentery bacillus was also reported in two cases for the first time.

Typhoid.—196 cases were reported during the year compared with 136 for 1932; of these cases only 5 occurred in the Suva area, the rest were reported from different parts of the Colony. The incidence and spread of typhoid has been kept within strict limitations by a system of inoculation with T.A.B., which has been practised during recent years.

Diphtheria.—17 cases occurred of which 5 were reported in the Suva area.

Infantile paralysis.—Poliomyelitis was officially notified for the first time, two cases having occurred. Medical opinion suggests sporadic cases have occurred previously and laboratory tests carried out in the United States of America demonstrated the presence of substances protective against the virus in Fijian bloods.

Whooping cough.—This disease made its appearance during the latter half of the second quarter and cases continued to the end of November. It was of a mild character with a negligible mortality.

Scarlet fever.—Four cases of a scarlatina form fever were reported, two in August, one in September, and one in October, all cases occurring in the Suva area.

Epidemic dropsy.—47 cases of epidemic dropsy were investigated during the first quarter of the year and two cases in the second quarter. Three cases of oedema of the legs and feet occurred at the Public Lunatic Asylum, in which the oedema is stated to have commenced to diminish seven days after bread was substituted for rice and to have disappeared a week later.

No cases were reported in the third quarter, and in the last quarter two cases of dropsy occurred at the Suva gaol. Epidemic dropsy, whose seasonal incidence usually commences in November, did not make its appearance.

Leprosy.—The problem of leprosy, a disease which is very prevalent in the Pacific Islands, continues to be very thoroughly dealt with in Fiji. On the island of Makogai there is a most modern and up-to-date Leper Hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, a Lay Superintendent, and fourteen European and ten Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, and lepers are also received from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands. The cost of the institution is borne by the various participating Administrations proportionately to the number of their patients. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients, while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by Nursing Sisters.

Admissions during 1933	34
Repatriation of Indians	18
Conditional discharges	30
Deaths	34
No. of patients at the end of 1933	427

Since 1911 there have been 1,674 admissions, 283 conditional discharges, 44 re-admissions (many of which have been on account of trophic ulceration rather than for reactivation of the disease), and twelve cases have been redischarged.

Miscellaneous.

Dairies and milk and food control.—There were 24 dairies registered within the rural district of Suva during the year. All premises were inspected bi-monthy by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health, and, with few exceptions where minor alterations and improvements were ordered, they were maintained in a satisfactory condition. As required by by-laws made under the Public Health Ordinance, the Veterinary Officers of the Department of Agriculture tested dairy herds for tuberculosis. Of the 754 head of cattle tested, 25 only gave positive or doubtful results.

Other inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health included the inspection of slaughter-houses and restaurants. There were three slaughter-houses registered during the year in the Suva area and the district of Rewa while one application to erect a slaughter-house was received and approved. All slaughter-houses were visited daily. Of the total number of carcasses inspected, 4,042 were passed and 84 were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Sanitation Campaign.

In May, 1932, the Rockefeller Foundation, in co-operation with the Government of Fiji, commenced an intensive campaign for the installation of latrines of the bore-hole type throughout the Colony.

In 1928 experiments were undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation with this type of latrine in the district of Rewa, where some 1,400 bore-holes were put in use among Fijians and Indians. Towards the end of 1930, and during the early months of 1931, the Foundation co-operated with the Central Board of Health and installed 1,815 bore-holes in Suva and in the nearby district of Navua. This new type of latrine proved to be satisfactory both with Fijians and Indians. The campaign was continued and over 2,000 bore-holes were installed in 1932 and 4,329 in 1933.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva.—The Municipal Council is the Local Authority for the area which it controls. The Medical Officer of Health, who is not a member of the Local Authority, attends its meetings in an advisory capacity. The sanitary duties in the urban area are carried out by the Council's two Sanitary Inspectors under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food inspection and work in connexion with infectious diseases is now carried out by a Central Board of Health Inspector.

For sanitary purposes the town of Suva is divided into an inner or business area, and an outer or residential area, and effect is gradually being given to the intention that all buildings within the business area shall be constructed of concrete. Within the town boundary there is no marked tendency towards segregation on racial lines, and the Administration has never attempted to bring it about. The type of dwelling varies with the means of the occupants. The labouring classes are usually drawn from the native and Indian communities, and a proportion of them live in tenement dwellings, but many Indians, who obtain their employment in Suva, live in separate houses on settlements surrounding the town area. The most important of such settlements is situated at Samabula where a town planning scheme is proceeding satisfactorily.

A marked improvement has taken place in Suva during the last three years in the state of the latrines, bathrooms, and kitchens of some of the poorer dwellings; and the re-laying of all the main sewers, which is now nearing completion, is a work of the highest importance. The establishment of Fijian and Indian Child Welfare Centres has greatly improved the conditions of poorer class dwellings. The economic depression is still responsible for a slow rate of progress in improvements anticipated from the building regulations of 1930, but the regulations are given effect to in the case of all new buildings.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.

The sugar industry in Fiji greatly benefited during the year as a result of the Colony being allotted by the Imperial Government a quota, for the financial year 1933-34, of 44,000 tons of sugar, in respect of the importation of which into the United Kingdom a special preferential rate of duty was allowed. The whole of this quota was allotted to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited—the only sugar company operating in the Colony—which was thus enabled to maintain the local price paid for cane.

While the 1933 crop was above the average, it fell considerably below that of the previous year, on account of an unusually wet period at the beginning of the year followed by dry weather from May till November.

Exports of sugar during the year amounted to 113,836 tons, which were shipped to the following destinations :—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	63,763
Canada	47,712
New Zealand and Pacific Islands	2,361
	113,836

Exports for the past five years have been :—

	Tons.
1929	72,274
1930	90,979
1931	67,937
1932	131,302
1933	113,836

Bananas.

The banana exports from the Colony during the year 1933 amounted to :—

	Cases.
To Australia	20,542
To New Zealand	140,126
Total	160,668

The system of control of exports by quotas continued in operation during the year and it is to this restriction on marketing that the decline in exports is due. Under the quota system as controlled in Fiji, it is possible to safeguard the interests of the Fijians who have, for many years past, been the principal growers of bananas for export. It is significant to note that for the past three years Fijian exports have varied as follows :—

	Per cent.
1931	75·9
1932	64·3
1933	78·1

There is little doubt that, but for the introduction of the quota system, the Fijians would have been driven to a large extent from the trade in which they have been the principal producers for many years.

Average prices paid to growers at packing stations have varied as follows during the past three years:—

	Per Case.
1931	4s. 4d.
1932	2s. 3d.
1933	2s. 8d.

Prices on the New Zealand market showed some appreciation over those for the previous year and there is no doubt that this is due principally to the measures of restriction agreed on by the supplying territories and the New Zealand Government. The average gross price realized in New Zealand increased from 10s. 10d. per case in 1932 to 13s. 11d. per case in 1933.

Although under the Ottawa Agreement Fiji is permitted to export 40,000 centals of bananas to Australia at a reduced duty of 2s. 6d. per cental, the market was not found to be profitable as charges, such as primage and sales tax, considerably increased the taxation on shipments to the Commonwealth. As a consequence during the year exports totalled only 20,542 cases, whereas the total quantity admissible at the reduced tariff charge is approximately 50,000 cases. The Director of Agriculture made inquiry into the marketing conditions in Australia during the year and towards the end of the year His Excellency the Governor left Fiji with a view to discussing with the Commonwealth Authorities the charges levied on Fiji bananas.

No shipments were made to Canada during the year owing to the lack of suitable fruit. Arrangements have been made by the Department of Agriculture for the cultivation of bananas on specially selected land for further trials of this market.

Copra.

Exports of copra during the year amounted to 22,597 tons, compared with 15,076 tons in 1932. The market showed a serious decline during the year, the opening price of £10 at ports of export in Fiji at the beginning of the year declining to £4 at the close of the year. Accurate figures of the quantity of copra produced by Fijians are not available, but it is generally accepted that 50 per cent. of the copra production of the Colony is produced from native sources. There is undoubtedly a considerable amount of distress amongst the European and half-caste coconut planters in the Colony, and in October the Government appointed a Special Committee to consider and report on the best means of assisting the industry. The Committee had not completed their investigations by the end of the year.

The operations of the Coconut Committee were continued during the year and introduction of parasites of the leaf-mining beetle and of the coconut spathe borer were made from Java. Breeding and liberation operations in Fiji have been attended with success and it is anticipated that the insects concerned will establish themselves in the Colony.

Rice.

The year 1933 may be looked upon as marking the turning point of the rice industry in Fiji as Government notified growers that it would not purchase paddy after the 1933 season and the Government mill would cease operations when existing stocks had been disposed of. It was considered that the purchase of paddy and milling of rice by Government had achieved its object by establishing within 12 years, a permanent producing and milling industry of such proportions as to render importations of rice unnecessary under normal conditions.

362 tons of paddy only were purchased on behalf of the Government mill despite the fact that total production was probably the equal of the 1932 crop when 1,672 tons were purchased. The remainder of the crop was handled by privately owned " hullers."

Thirty-three power driven " hullers " owned by private persons, and having each a capacity of approximately two tons of cleaned rice per working day of ten hours, have been established in the Colony and five more are expected to be in use by the 1934 season.

Only 280 tons of rice were imported in 1933 and this was not economically necessary.

Climatic conditions throughout the year were distinctly favourable. As formerly, almost all of the paddy produced is grown by Indians, but the amount produced by Fijians is steadily increasing, as is also the consumption of rice by that race.

Cotton.

Owing to the depressed state of the world's market only sufficient seed was planted to provide fresh seed for planting in 1934 should conditions warrant.

Weather conditions were most unsatisfactory as regards this crop. Lack of rain at planting time delayed the planting and when late rains arrived young plants were either washed out or flooded. Drought conditions prevailed from April to September.

The whole of the seed cotton purchased in 1933 was procured from only 14 growers. The quantity produced was 849 lb. Sea Island and 10,116 lb. Back Cross. Seven bales of the Back Cross were shipped to England for large scale spinning tests. In November-December, 1933 (i.e. the planting season for 1934 crop), Government was not able to guarantee 2d. per lb. for " A " grade; consequently it is likely that the 1934 crop will be a small one. Should the American acreage curtailment plan be successful with a consequent rise in world prices and the spinning tests of the Back Cross variety prove satisfactory, it is anticipated that planting in 1934 should warrant the expectation of a big crop again in 1935.

Citrus.

The progress of the citrus industry during the year under review has been satisfactory. 7,379 cases of oranges and mandarins were exported almost wholly to New Zealand. This shows a large increase on previous years. Preparation for market consisting of colouring, grading, wrapping, and packing was carried out by the Department of Agriculture at the expense of the shippers. The bulk of exports consists of oranges and mandarins and a small quantity of limes. Grapefruit of excellent quality are offered on the local market and will be available for export in the near future.

Although some few acres of citrus groves on commercial lines are established, practically all of the fruit exported has been obtained from trees growing haphazardly about native villages. Every effort is being made by the Department of Agriculture to encourage planting of properly laid out groves with budded stocks of tried and selected varieties. As these new groves come into bearing control and progress of the industry will become increasingly easier.

Subsidiary Crops.

Mauritius Bean (*Stizolobium atterimum*).—Formerly large quantities of this bean were produced and exported to Queensland for use as a green manure crop. This trade has declined of late, owing to the use by Queensland farmers of other leguminous plants for the purpose.

1,201 cwt. were sampled and tested for germination and freedom from foreign matter prior to shipment.

Rice Bean (*Phaseolus calcaratus*) *and Cow Pea* (*Vigna catiang*).—These are used fairly extensively in the sugar districts in Fiji, as well as Mauritius bean, as green manure crops.

Kumalas (*Sweet potatoes*).—3,471 cwt. were exported during the year mainly to New Zealand. Large quantities of this vegetable are grown and it forms one of the main articles of native diet during the season. The kumalas for export are grown mainly by Chinese. Rigid inspection prior to export has greatly improved the quality and has reduced rejections for weevil infection, in New Zealand, to a minimum.

Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Melons and Pumpkins.—These products are exported to New Zealand in small quantities, inspecting, grading and packing being carried out under the direct supervision of the Department of Agriculture. Quality is improving and there should be a larger market for these products when conditions improve in the Dominion. Chinese are again the main producers for export.

Ginger.—Ginger of excellent quality is grown and exported in the green state in small quantities.

Coconuts.—Owing to low price of copra some attention was given to the market for whole husked coconuts, of which 251,330 nuts were exported during the year. Enquiries which may eventually lead to the development of minor industries connected with coconuts, were made with regard to the production of charcoal from coconut shell and desiccated coconut from the " meat ".

A small quantity of coconut meal is manufactured locally as a by-product of the soap works and is used as a stock food.

Granadilla: Pawpaw and Avocado Pear.—These and allied fruits attain to perfection in the Colony. Very small quantities have been exported from time to time.

Maize.—During the last five years the area under maize has decreased considerably. Formerly the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, alone purchased 50,000 to 60,000 bushels per annum while their consumption now is not above a few thousand bushels. This is due in part to the increased use of tractors, but mainly to the change from plantation methods of production of cane to production by individual tenant farmers. The crop grows very well on alluvial flats and 50-60 bushels per acre are not uncommon. Storage of the grain has been difficult unless treated by a mechanical drier and stored in sealed tanks. Export of maize in the past has not proved profitable. Further consideration is being given to the possibility of manufacturing maize flour and encouraging its use among the Indian population so as to reduce the large quantity of wheaten flour and sharps imported.

Tobacco.—This appears to do well in all portions of the Colony. Many types are grown but with a preponderance of poor sorts suitable only for the manufacture of " trade " twist which, however, suits the natives' taste. Much experimental work remains to be done in selecting a few good varieties to displace the large number of mixed types at present being cultivated. Selection work is proceeding at the Cotton Experimental Station.

Kava: (*Piper methysticum*).—Although no figures are available, large quantities of the dried root of this plant are produced. It forms a remunerative " money " crop to many Indians, Chinese and Fijians near Suva. The root when ground is mascerated with water to form the native " grog " (*Yagona*) common to most Pacific Islands.

Potatoes.—During the last few years increasing quantities of potatoes have been grown along the Singatoka Valley. These are of excellent quality, but it has not been possible to keep " seed " from harvest to next planting and new " seed " has to be imported each year at considerable cost.

Native Food-stuffs.—Taro, cassava, yams, breadfruit, kumalas, vundi or plantain, bananas and coconuts in one form or another and according to season, form the basis of the vegetable diet of the native Fijians. These goods are produced in considerable quantities in gardens adjacent to villages. Production was sufficient for the needs of the people during the year under review.

Within the last few years Chinese have gone into the production of these vegetables for sale to natives and others in and around Suva township.

Indian Food-stuffs.—Rice, peas, beans, lentils, maize, bringall, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, turmeric, groundnuts, mango, guava, melons, potatoes, escholots are all grown in Fiji by the Indians as well as many other food-stuffs of lesser importance. Large quantities are, however, imported, more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage the Indians to grow and prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian population is tending to include more and more of the Fijians' food-stuffs in their diet as also is the Fijian developing a taste for Indian curry foods and rice.

European Vegetables.—Cabbage, beans, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins, marrows. Quite a wide range of so-called European vegetables grow well in all parts of the Colony. Probably a great deal more care is required to raise them successfully than would be the case in more temperate zones. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Live Stock.

Animal husbandry plays an important part in the lives of the inhabitants of Fiji. Few industries are conducted without the assistance in some measure of horses or bullocks for traction purposes. Cattle also are much used on coconut plantations to keep down undergrowth.

Since the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has adopted the system of small tenant farmers, the use of tractors in agriculture has been largely superseded by horses or bullocks; each farmer having sufficient stock for agricultural purposes and to provide milk and ghee for his family.

There are approximately 12,000 horses in Fiji and over 60,000 head of cattle. The numbers of cattle could be greatly increased if it were not for the absence of suitable markets for the disposal of beef stock, present consumption being limited to the requirements of local butchers, which are not great. Goats are a popular sideline amongst Indian farmers and there are approximately 20,000 of these animals in the country. Sheep do not do well and the number of these animals remains in the vicinity of 1,000 head.

1,695 sheep were imported during the year for slaughtering purposes.

Pigs.

A number of modern piggeries are established in the Colony. Those at the sugar mill centres are owned and managed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and supply pork to their own butcheries. That owned by the Fiji Pastoral Company, Limited, is run as a sideline to their dairying enterprise and supplies pork to the Suva butcheries. The demand for pork is limited to the European and Fijian population.

Many wild pigs are found in the bush and are likely to become a serious pest in some parts.

The importation of pigs during the year amounted to 250.

Dairying.

The three butter factories in the Colony continued to operate independently till June, when the Government controlled Tailevu Dairy Scheme was merged with the Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company Limited. The factory was closed and all milk and cream from Tailevu handled and manufactured at the Rewa factory. This merger marks a satisfactory attainment of the original object of the Tailevu Scheme. The low price of butter fat which, in the case of the Tailevu undertaking, was reduced to 8d. per lb. until Government control ceased has continued to handicap suppliers in maintaining and developing their farms.

The protection by import duty of 4d. per lb. on Empire butter and 8d. per lb. on foreign butter remained in operation.

Production and export figures for the past five years are :—

	Consumed locally.	*Total exports.*	*Total production.*
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1929	312,246	79,968	392,214
1930	339,141	101,136	440,277
1931	309,511	180,544	490,055
1932	272,663	271,152	543,815
1933	338,631	205,744	544,375

Ghee.

17,920 lb. of butter (fat) were converted into ghee during the year. There are also large quantities of ghee, more or less pure, as well as that admittedly adulterated (mainly with coconut oil) manufactured by the Indians and disposed of among themselves.

Milk for Human Consumption.

This constitutes no small portion of the dairying industry. At the various sugar mill centres dairies are owned and operated by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, to provide cheap, reasonably pure, milk. At other country centres private dairies or individuals supply the needs of the community. Suva and its environs is well cared for as to milk supply and the distribution thereof.

A compulsory tuberculin test is applied to all registered dairy herds in the Suva district and a few registered herds outside this area are voluntarily subjected to the test. Regular visits of inspection are made by Veterinary Officers and Sanitary Inspectors to registered dairies.

During the year one of the dairy companies instituted the distribution of pasteurised milk in sealed bottles. This modern hygienic method of milk handling has many desirable features especially in a tropical town such as Suva.

Poultry.

Fowls and ducks are found in all parts of the Colony and turkeys do well in certain parts. The best strains of pure bred Orpington, Leghorn, Rhode Island Reds and Indian Game have been imported from time to time and maintained. There are a number of commercial poultry farms, but a fair portion of the local supply comes from small Indian farmers whose stock is mostly of the " barnyard " type. The price of eggs ranged from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. per dozen wholesale.

Table birds are not bred as such, but a large number of fowls, ducks and a limited number of turkeys are disposed of for consumption. Prices for live birds are : fowls 3s. 6d. to 5s. and ducks 5s. to 6s. each.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This phase of agricultural education is controlled by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native and Indian Departments and a representative of the Methodist Mission. For the purpose of this description it may be divided into two main spheres, namely primary instruction and adult instruction.

Primary Instruction.

The work under this heading may be briefly described as the operation of the agricultural bias which it is intended to give to certain portions of the curriculum of existing schools. This training is more or less confined to nature study lessons and work in school gardens. Its widespread application is handicapped by want of sufficient qualified instructors, but some centres have made excellent progress. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools, but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and the Teachers Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural Colleges at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and the training of students at the Government Experimental Stations further still. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as Native Field Instructors of the Agricultural Department for work mainly amongst the adult population.

Adult Instruction.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian agricultural community is far ahead of the Fijian in modern agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugar cane and since the adoption of the tenant farmer system by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, the individual comes under the direct supervision of the trained officers of that company. In these circumstances Government's restricted financial resources have been directed towards lifting the more backward Fijian to a comparative equality with the Indian in agricultural practice.

The training at the Navuso Experimental Station of selected Fijian youths was continued during the year. Those who qualified as efficient were drafted into the country districts for service under the senior native assistants who, in turn, are supervised by the European staff of the Department of Agriculture. Their duties include the encouragement and supervision of the planting and care of export crops grown in their areas, the selection of land and planting material, advice and assistance in the training of pupils in agricultural methods at the schools, the maintenance of adequate food gardens and instruction in the handling and packing of export products. They also act as advisers to the village agricultural clubs where these exist. A club is formed by the men of a village having a chairman and secretary-treasurer. The cultivation and marketing of their products is carried out on the lines of a co-operative society. A number of these clubs are operating satisfactorily in the Wainimala and Waindina areas. It is expected that more will be formed during the forthcoming year.

The field instructional training of adults which has been undertaken in the Provinces of Nandroga and Tholo West was continued. In spite of adverse weather conditions results were satisfactory, the total value of produce sold from the different centres amounting to £290 6s. 9d. The cost of seed supplied was deducted and £44 6s. 7d. was retained towards the repayment of an advance made by the Government for the purchase of implements. It is proposed again to modify the scheme in 1934 and to restrict activities to two main centres. This modification is necessitated by the difficulties of control over a number of widely-scattered areas. The men, numbering 34, who have completed their training will now strike out for themselves. A small committee consisting of the District Commissioner, Agricultural Officer in charge of the scheme, his assistant the Mbuli and one man from each district, has been appointed to organize and encourage these men and to maintain discipline.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2, to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1933 :—

Nature of Title.	*No. of Titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of Lots.	*Estimated Area.*		
Freeholds	1,592	532,605	—	—	532,605	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	676	17,559	69	3,369	20,928	—
Leases of Native Land	7,647	303,872	282	14,396	318,268	—
			Totals ...	...	871,801	4,523,620

Four hundred and twenty applications for leases of native lands aggregating 9,681 acres were received during the year. Of these 188 applications for 3,497 acres were approved and 137 applications for 4,229 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 84 per cent. of the total. Ninety-three applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 2,387 acres. Of these 73 applications for 1,677 acres were approved and 13 applications for 102 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

SURVEY.

The survey staff of the Lands Department consists of six officers (one temporarily seconded to the Native Lands Commission), two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1933 the field staff were employed almost wholly on investigations and miscellaneous surveys including surveys of native leases, and no main traverse work was possible. Seven surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native and Crown lands.

Three hundred and eleven plans of surveys by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, a European assistant, and three native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons who they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission in 1933 continued the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of landowners of illegitimate birth in the Provinces of Tailevu, Naitasiri, Tholo East, Tholo North, Ra, Mba, Lautoka, Nandi, Nandronga, and Kandavu.

Enquiries were commenced in the Province of Lau and were completed on the island of Moala.

Mining.

Renewed interest in prospecting for precious metals was occasioned by the discovery made in Tavua district of gold-bearing ore. Fifteen additional prospecting licences were approved and issued by the Mining Board in respect of areas in Tavua district during the first part of the year. It was then decided that consideration of applications for Prospecting Licences and Miners Rights, subsequently lodged, should be deferred pending the presentation to the Legislative Council of new mining legislation. Prospecting work has been vigorously conducted on several of the prospecting licence areas in Tavua district, more especially on three of the blocks on which outcrops of ore showed reasonable prospects of proving to be in payable quantities. Pending the passing of the new mining legislation, no mining leases have been approved for issue, although some mining has been permitted under special permits to export gold granted by the Governor in Council.

The Mount Kasi Mining Company continued mining and prospecting operations at Yanawai during the year with such encouraging results as to justify the installation of additional plant for treatment of the ore by improved methods. The quantity of fine gold exported during the year was 1,636 oz. from Yanawai and 202 oz. from the Tavua district.

Prospecting work has been done in other districts but so far without revealing any payable deposits.

A new draft Mining Ordinance and Regulations were transmitted in draft to the Colonial Office for consideration.

VII.—COMMERCE.

During 1933 an indication of returning prosperity was noted in the increase of the value of the Colony's imports, which amounted to £1,069,266 as compared with £857,346 in 1932, namely an increase of £211,920. The value of exports also increased by £26,565 from £1,698,964 in 1932 to £1,725,529. The total value of the trade of the Colony therefore increased to £2,794,795 or £238,485 higher than the previous year. The export figures for 1933, however, include the value of 2 shipments of gold coin valued at £111,540. The tonnage of sugar exported in 1933 was 17,466 tons less in quantity and £108,457 less in value than that exported in 1932, while the quantity and value of copra exported increased, in spite of the decrease in its commercial value per ton, from 15,076 tons valued at £170,240 in 1932 to 22,597 tons valued at £195,788 in 1933.

Values of imports, exports, total trade and visible trade balance for each of the past five years are set out in the following table :—

Year ended 31st Dec.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1929 ...	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607	307,389
1930 ...	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710	265,342
1931 ...	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701	70,673
1932 ...	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	841,618
1933 ...	1,069,266	1,725,529	2,794,795	656,263

In 1933 the total trade of the Colony was divided between the different countries as follows :—

Country.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of total trade.*
	£	£	£	
United Kingdom	366,151	849,213	1,215,364	43·49
Australia	379,886	73,638	453,524	16·23
Canada	38,175	501,767	539,942	19·32
India	39,242	—	39,242	1·40
New Zealand	88,174	118,296	206,470	7·39
Dutch East Indies	18,794	2,260	21,054	·76
Japan	39,269	3,007	42,276	1·51
United States	42,431	28,576	71,007	2·54
Other British Possessions ...	16,715	23,659	40,374	1·45
Other Foreign Countries ...	18,821	122,197	141,018	5·04
	1,047,658	1,722,613	2,770,271	99·13
Ships' Stores	—	2,916	2,916	·10
Parcels Post	21,608	—	21,608	·77
Totals ... £	1,069,266	1,725,529	2,794,795	100·00

The following table shows how the trade was distributed during the past two years :—

Country.	*Percentage of Imports.*		*Percentage of Exports.*		*Percentage of total trade.*	
	1932	*1933*	*1932*	*1933*	*1932*	*1933*
United Kingdom ...	29·25	34·24	49·86	49·22	42·95	43·49
Other British Possessions.	57·03	52·58	45·74	41·57	49·53	45·79
Foreign Countries...	11·17	11·16	4·27	9·04	6·57	9·85
Parcels Post ...	2·55	2·02	—	—	·86	·77
Ships' Stores ...	—	—	·13	·17	·09	·10
Total ...	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Imports.—The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows :—

Country.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	**418,570**	**373,694**	**258,171**	**250,748**	**366,151**
Australia	**543,963**	**449,845**	**372,284**	**317,046**	**379,886**
Canada	**84,822**	**60,076**	**40,134**	**25,675**	**38,175**
India	**69,222**	**43,239**	**32,622**	**33,944**	**39,242**
New Zealand	**140,418**	**102,339**	**81,470**	**100,255**	**88,174**
Japan	**23,576**	**17,135**	**23,909**	**29,814**	**39,269**
Dutch East Indies ...	**20,746**	**21,889**	**20,115**	**22,633**	**18,794**
United States	**121,441**	**86,224**	**51,789**	**25,937**	**42,431**

The proportion of the total import trade done with these countries during the same period was as follows :—

Country.	1929. Per cent.	1930. Per cent.	1931. Per cent.	1932. Per cent.	1933. Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	**28·50**	**30·65**	**27·77**	**29·25**	**34·24**
Australia	**37·04**	**36·90**	**40·05**	**36·98**	**35·53**
Canada	**5·77**	**4·94**	**4·32**	**3·00**	**3·57**
India	**4·03**	**3·55**	**3·51**	**3·96**	**3·67**
New Zealand	**9·56**	**8·39**	**8·76**	**11·69**	**8·25**
Japan	**1·60**	**1·45**	**2·57**	**3·48**	**3·67**
Dutch East Indies ...	**1·41**	**1·80**	**2·16**	**2·64**	**1·76**
United States	**8·20**	**7·06**	**5·57**	**3·03**	**3·97**

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows :—

From United Kingdom.

	1932.		1933.	
Article.	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Boots and shoes...	—	2,083	—	2,024
Cement and lime	50,631 cwt.	5,503	45,924 cwt.	5,274
Drapery	—	83,051	—	87,614
Drugs	—	6,406	—	6,729
Hardware ...	—	19,769	—	32,158
Iron, black, and steel, mild.	6,039 cwt.	3,255	5,958 cwt.	3,478
Iron, galvanized...	8,078 cwt.	5,577	14,393 cwt.	11,343
Machinery ...	—	9,311	—	20,437
Manures	2,466 tons	13,778	2,886 tons	19,914
Matches, wood ...	38,350 gross	6,720	51,350 gross	7,410
Motor vehicles ...	40	4,285	77	10,547
Oils	36,122 gall.	3,515	54,330 gall.	5,775
Paints	81 tons	3,609	137 tons	6,129
Salt	14,902 cwt.	2,558	12,600 cwt.	2,295
Spirits	12,256 gall.	13,015	12,456 gall.	14,152
Stationery ...	—	4,347	—	3,981
Tobacco	15,153 lb.	4,473	18,061 lb.	6,429
Toys and Fancy Goods.	—	10,149	—	11,960
Other articles ...	—	49,344	—	108,502
		£250,748		£366,151

From Australia.

Article.	*1932.* *Quantity.*	*Value.* £	*1933.* *Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Bags and sacks ...	60,419 doz.	22,058	113,949 doz.	35,936
Beer	31,838 gall.	6,259	40,995 gall.	7,563
Biscuits, fancy ...	96,570 lb.	4,560	117,527 lb.	5,003
Confectionery ...	64,314 lb.	2,962	76,024 lb.	3,489
Coal	18,903 tons	17,194	20,523 tons	14,817
Cordage and rope	1,794 cwt.	4,215	1,459 cwt.	3,861
Drapery	—	6,761	—	4,706
Drugs	—	6,366	—	5,312
Flour, sharps and pollard.	14,547,907 lb.	53,229	15,493,617 lb.	54,436
Fruits and vegetables, fresh.	10,331 cwt.	4,394	26,204 cwt.	6,809
Grease	3,283 cwt.	2,692	2,594 cwt.	2,065
Hardware ...	—	24,956	—	31,275
Machinery ...	—	17,606	—	35,342
Meats	160,780 lb.	4,049	170,063 lb.	3,945
Oils	88,890 gall.	7,234	269,296 gall.	14,721
Paints	56 tons	3,366	58 tons	3,135
Photographs and films	—	6,588	1,480,484 ft.	12,878
Rice	10,805 cwt.	5,939	3,713 cwt.	1,958
Spirits	2,621 gall.	3,085	3,190 gall.	3,131
Tea	141,008 lb.	8,977	125,756 lb.	7,792
Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars.	64,986 lb.	20,578	78,211 lb.	23,461
Other articles ...	—	83,978	—	98,251
Total ...		£317,046		£379,886

From Canada.

Fish	492,168 lb.	9,785	694,516 lb.	13,177
Timber	872,294 sup. ft.	4,219	2,203,636 sup. ft.	11,822
Tyres and tubes...	—	3,329	—	4,204
Other articles ...	—	8,342	—	8,972
Total ...		£25,675		£38,175

From India.

Bags and sacks ...	18,125 doz.	4,710	27,208 doz.	7,062
Dhall	9,133 cwt.	5,275	11,632 cwt.	6,529
Drapery	—	3,068	—	4,189
Ghee and ghee substitutes.	298,832 lb.	5,883	328,603 lb.	6,213
Oil, mustard ...	55,303 gall.	7,374	57,412 gall.	7,591
Other articles ...	—	7,634	—	7,658
Total ...		£33,944		£39,242

From New Zealand.

Article.	*1932.*		*1933.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* £	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Bacon and hams	63,115 lb.	2,791	62,503 lb.	2,694
Bags and sacks ...	59,693 doz.	16,183	9,924 doz.	2,280
Drapery	—	2,390	—	3,708
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	19,217 cwt.	7,584	19,195 cwt.	5,073
Grease and tallow	4,737 cwt.	4,599	3,040 cwt.	2,781
Manure	19,450 cwt.	4,150	24,986 cwt.	4,619
Meat	203,782 lb.	5,317	245,126 lb.	5,817
Photographs and films.	—	22,888	2,325,283 ft.	21,935
Soap, plain ...	363,006 lb.	2,878	224,267 lb.	1,898
Sugar	384,763 lb.	2,472	330,476 lb.	2,198
Tea	56,293 lb.	5,459	64,892 lb.	5,934
Other articles ...	—	23,544	—	29,237
TOTAL ...		£100,255		£88,174

From Japan.

Drapery	—	26,230	—	34,535
Other articles ...	—	3,584	—	4,734
TOTAL ...		£29,814		£39,269

From Dutch East Indies.

Oil, crude ...	254,506 gall.	1,629	247,390 gall.	2,608
Kerosene ...	109,797 gall.	3,608	164,355 gall.	5,747
Motor fuel ...	347,759 gall.	17,386	268,391 gall.	10,439
Other articles ...	—	10	—	—
TOTAL ...		£22,633		£18,794

From United States of America.

Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	3,897 cwt.	2,028	1,487 cwt.	1,054
Hardware ...	—	2,370	—	3,975
Oils—Kerosene ...	83,635 gall.	3,683	219,106 gall.	9,176
Motor fuel	260,308 gall.	8,917	724,061 gall.	16,373
Other ...	46,571 gall.	2,608	157,834 gall.	2,807
Machinery, agricultural.	—	940	—	1,732
Other articles ...	—	5,391	—	7,314
TOTAL ...		£25,937		£42,431

Exports.—The exports of the principal products of the Colony for the past five years were as follows :—

—		1929.		1930.		1931		1932.		1933.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... tons	72,275	881,263	90,979	853,833	67,937	624,310	131,302	1,289,239	113,836	1,180,782
Copra ...	... tons	33,226	563,978	23,882	369,524	16,917	177,786	15,076	170,240	22,597	195,788
Molasses ...	... tons	9,845	9,845	12,337	12,337	9,019	9,019	9,448	9,448	12,937	12,937
Bananas ...	bunches	384,858	107,280	169,044	57,178	194,875	57,368	346,968	67,237	326,422	69,243
Biscuits ...	... lb.	373,793	9,507	338,892	8,456	149,630	3,325	133,266	3,135	84,654	1,919
Butter ...	... cwt.	714	5,747	903	6,496	1,612	7,519	2,421	11,299	1,837	7,564
Cotton ...	... lb.	49,115	3,348	127,077	6,727	78,932	1,146	101,997	5,100	34,870	2,300
Vegetables ...	... cwt.	11,108	7,444	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228
Pines, canned	... lb.	128,210	2,276	306,913	6,593	297,301	5,961	621,036	8,095	380,711	5,582
Pines, fresh	... cases	6,170	1,848	7,633	2,296	5,607	1,510	1,776	668	2,684	1,007
Trocas shell	... tons	192	11,476	193	11,209	183	7,371	266	12,125	365	19,945

Imports.

During the year under review Australia maintained her place as the largest exporter to Fiji while the United Kingdom was again second.

The imports to Fiji from Australia consisted principally of flour and sharps, other foodstuffs, and coal. There is also a large re-export trade of produce from Australia. The position of New Zealand in regard to exports to Fiji is practically the same as that of Australia except that flour and sharps do not figure in her exports.

The classes of imports from the United Kingdom continued to be practically the same as those in previous years, viz. : all classes of machinery and drapery, iron and steel, oil stores, manure, matches, cement and motor vehicles.

Canada's chief exports to Fiji were fish, timber, motor vehicles, and rubber tyres and tubes, while power, illuminating and lubricating oils were imported chiefly from the United States of America and Dutch East Indies.

In 1933 there was another large increase in the value of goods imported from Japan, the main item being drapery of all classes.

The value and quantity of imports in 1933 compared very favourably with those of 1932 though the method of assessing the value of goods (i.e. in Fiji currency) which came into force on the 4th November, 1932, gives, owing to the difference in the rates of exchange, a higher value for goods from United Kingdom and a lower one for goods from Australia and New Zealand.

At the October Session of the Legislative Council the customs tariff for imports was generally revised and in many instances the rates increased to afford greater protection to goods of Empire and local manufacture.

Exports.

The four main exports in 1933 were sugar, copra, bananas and trocas shell. As has been previously mentioned, the value and quantity of sugar exported decreased while there was an increase in the value and quantity of copra exported.

Bananas although showing a decrease in quantity showed an increase of £2,006 in the value exported, while exports of trocas shell increased by 99 tons valued at £7,820. This increase in the exports of trocas shell is doubtless due to the fact that the low prices obtaining for copra are causing the natives to seek some other method of augmenting their incomes. The export figure for butter showed a decrease as compared with the 1932 figure by 584 cwt. valued at £3,735, but this may be accounted for by increased local consumption.

The United Kingdom and Canada took by far the greater part of the sugar exported. The bulk of the copra was absorbed by various European countries. The trocas shell was shipped to Europe, Australia, and Japan. Bananas were exported mainly to New Zealand although Australia took 42,381 bunches valued at £10,698.

This revival to a certain extent of the export trade in bananas with Australia is one of the results of the Ottawa Agreement, under which the Commonwealth Government now permits the importation annually of 40,000 centals of Fiji bananas at a special rate of duty.

In general there was a slight increase in the exports of the minor products of the Colony, doubtless due to the low prices of copra which have forced planters to turn their attention to other products

The following table shows quantity and value of twelve of the minor products of the Colony exported during the last five years :—

Article.		1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£
Beans, Mauritius..	cwt.	649	453	1,288	1,290	968	1,212	2,590	3,237	1,201	1,855
Bêche-de-mer ...	cwt.	1,049	6,044	2,672	13,386	2,864	16,045	2,074	8,801	255	1,348
Coconuts	No.	357,161	1,075	298,886	895	300,860	906	330,930	994	251,330	754
*Fruits, fresh, other than bananas or pines.		—	2,644	—	341	—	1,919	—	1,116	—	3,663
Gold bullion ...	oz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	305	2,053	2,079	13,500
Gum	cwt.	2,533	3,548	2,875	4,025	1,025	1,092	3,074	3,103	2,618	3,220
Hides	No.	9,557	6,668	5,856	4,216	4,208	2,283	3,473	1,724	3,857	1,381
Oil, coconut ...	tons.	96	4,038	69	2,451	61	1,631	18	410	50	1,129
Shell, pearl ...	lb.	—	—	1,120	15	24,304	216	21,504	193	12,824	128
„ turtle ...	lb.	1,908½	2,774	1,196	1,729	1,881	1,594	1,400	879	1,687	1,041
Soap, plain ...	cwt.	14	15	498	694	2,406	3,456	3,141	4,332	3,084	4,388
†Vegetables, fresh	cwt.	11,108	7,444	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228

* Included in 1933 the following:—

			£
Mandarines ...	4,317 cases	valued at	2,263
Oranges	3,034 „	„	1,119
Melons	3,749 fruits	„	236
Other		„	45
		Total =	£3,663

† Included in 1933 the following:—

			£
Tomatoes	110 cwt.	valued at	191
Kumalas (sweet potato)	3,471 cwt.	„	956
Cucumbers	37 cwt.	„	71
Other	27 cwt.	„	10
		Total =	£1,228

Suggestions for the development of trade with the United Kingdom and the Empire generally.

The Customs tariff for imports was generally revised at the October session of the Legislative Council, and the preference granted to Empire goods and protection afforded to locally manufactured goods increased in certain instances. The proportion of imports from the United Kingdom relative to the total import trade with all countries increased from 29·25 per cent. in 1932 to 34·24 per cent. in 1933. The greatest import trade was with Australia, corresponding figures being 36·98 in 1932 and 35·53 in 1933. Trade with the United Kingdom is being stimulated by the fact that cargo vessels sail direct from London to Fiji via Panama on an average once every six weeks during the year.

The differences in prevailing exchange rates between Fiji, and the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand influenced to a certain extent trade with these countries. Fiji currency has now been stabilized at the rate £100 (sterling) equals £111 (Fiji currency). In spite of import duty preference of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* in favour of Empire manufactured cotton goods and other textiles, the value of Japanese drapery which was imported during the year, and generally sold retail at a price below similar goods of Empire manufacture, increased from £26,230 in 1932 to £34,535.

The local sugar industry benefited from the preferences granted by the Imperial Government on Empire sugar imported into the United Kingdom, and the price paid for sugar cane was maintained. While the coconut planters suffered as a result of the fall in the price of copra, the community connected with the sugar industry lived in a state of comparative prosperity and spent freely.

Although no further action was taken to follow up the successful experimental shipments of bananas to Canada, special areas have been planted up and cultivated by the Department of Agriculture with a view to obtaining in due course a supply of the best possible grade of fruit for future shipments.

The export of citrus fruits, viz., oranges, mandarines and limes, to New Zealand increased during the year. In return a quantity of cold climate fruits and vegetables, viz., apples, pears, plums, pumpkins and swedes were imported from the neighbouring Dominions, and from California.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

No change has been made during the year in the conditions governing the employment of labourers under contract of service, except that following the fall in the price of copra, the wages of labourers employed on coconut plantations have fallen, on many plantations, from £12 to £10 per annum. Agricultural labourers may be employed under contracts for a period not exceeding twelve months. Every contract for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent if the contract appears unreasonable or inequitable. The hours of labour are nine a day, from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and returning them to their villages is borne by the employer. Adequate safeguards are provided by law for the proper housing and treatment of labourers and employers are required to provide medical care in cases of sickness.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands he is capable of supporting himself and his family from the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians do support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. The men are employed chiefly in the loading and unloading of cargo vessels and many of them return to their villages after the work of each ship is completed. A large number of these labourers are drawn from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. There is, however, nothing to prevent them from returning to their villages and resuming their place in the native social system if they so desire. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed, and they are in all cases a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew. This type of work is popular with the Fijians and the wages they earn are sufficient for the support of themselves and their dependants.

The work being performed on the trans-insular road in 1933 provided a considerable amount of employment for the Fijians living in the provinces through which the road passed, and if, as is hoped will be the case, there are further road developments in 1934, in other parts of Vitilevu, a further considerable number of Fijians will obtain a convenient means of paying their taxes and rates, a matter of some difficulty in these times of general economic depression.

The wages paid for the various classes of labour are a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law but in all contracts of service exceeding one month the District Commissioner may decline to register the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. Statistics concerning the current rate of wages are given elsewhere.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

There was no marked alteration in labour conditions, or in the rate of wages, which tended to remain at the levels of 2s. 6d. per day in Suva and 2s. per day elsewhere. Employment, is to a large extent, seasonal, particularly in the sugar districts where the maximum opportunities are afforded during the months when the mills are operating, but there is very little hardship during other periods because the majority of Indian labourers, having small-holdings of their own, are not entirely dependent for their livelihood on their wage earnings.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total average number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was 1,193. Of these, 814 were employed in Suva District and 379 in the various country districts. The total of 814 for Suva District is made up of 618 who were employed on the construction of the trans-insular road and of 196 who were employed on other works in and around Suva.

Approximately three-quarters of these workmen were engaged on road work, and, as has been the case in the past, Indians predominated on maintenance work, whereas the bulk of the labour employed on new construction work was Fijian.

Wages for unskilled labour ranged from 2s. per day in some of the country districts to 2s. 6d. per day in Suva.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. a day according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths, and fitters. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above and the time is not far distant when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen :—

Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day depending on the degree of skill.

Boat-builders 8s. to 20s. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boatsheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 20s. a day. Apprentices (usually European and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 12s. 6d. a week.

Painters (usually Indians) 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 11s. to 18s. a day. The average wage is £4 10s. a week.

Road overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. a month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department, and the conditions under which the labourers work, are practically identical with those obtaining outside the Department. The hours of work are 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week, and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose employees work 9 hours a day or 54 hours a week.

There are no records kept by the Public Works Department of the cost of living of the different classes of labourers employed. In any case, there is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories, each with a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £15 a month, except at the Grand Pacific Hotel where the monthly rate is £22 10s. Boarding-house terms average about £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £5 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general, cook and house-boy, and cook. house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl.

Cooks earn £5 to £6 per month and food. Others, £2 to £4 per month and food.

Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are cheaper, but less efficient. White servants are very rarely employed, except as children's nurses.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country, on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

In Suva, a single man could live, though with little margin for emergencies, on £200 a year. In country districts, if quarters were provided, he could live on slightly less.

European artisans tend to be employed only on fairly responsible work, and are usually men who keep up a fairly high standard of living. Since they are unlikely to have any privileges in the shape of free housing, it is unlikely that a married man could manage on less than £250 to £300 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use.

Butter	1s. 6d. per lb.
Bread	3d. per lb.
Milk	6d. per quart.
Cheese	1s. 2d. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 1d. per lb.
Pork	1s. 2d. per lb.
Rice	3d. per lb.
Coffee	1s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Tea	2s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Sugar, white	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown	2d. per lb.
Salt	1½d. per lb.
Eggs	2s. 0d. to 3s. 6d. per doz.
Bacon	1s. 8d. per lb.
Potatoes	14s. per cwt.
Preserved meats	1s. 1d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Flour	2½d. per lb.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows :—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free ...	£2 2 0 a year.
Secondary	£6 0 0 a year ...	£7 10 0 a year

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical Fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and Social Clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s. and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis, golf, and cricket clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s., and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £3 3s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows:

New Zealand	£12 to £25
Australia	£25 to £50
England	£87 10s. to £159 10s.

A special cabin-class return passage to England is quoted at £119 16s.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost of living of Fijian and Indian labourers, of whom only a small number are dependent on their wages. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to grow and husk their own rice. In these ways they materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are landowners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages, as they can return and live on their own lands whenever they so desire. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced foodstuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

Native education owes its origin to missionary enterprise, which commenced with the arrival of the Methodist Mission in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870, and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889.

On their own initiative the early Methodist missionaries established schools throughout the Colony, reduced the language to writing, produced a Fijian-English dictionary, and printed a translation of the New Testament. Primary education is still largely under the influence of the various Missions.

An important step forward in the educational policy of the Colony took place in 1916, when an Education Bill was passed creating a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed to enquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of and facilities provided for the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No 1 of 1929 substituted. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

The value of practical education was recognized by making eligibility for registration and for grants-in-aid dependent on satisfactory instruction being given in agriculture or manual work for boys and domestic crafts for girls.

At the end of September, 1933, there were 360 schools having a roll of 21,159 pupils, with an average attendance of about 80 per cent.

European Education.

There are thirteen schools which enrol Europeans: three are maintained wholly by Government, five by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company at the sugar centres, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, and two by local committees. Primary education is given in all these schools, while in addition secondary tuition is available in Suva at the Grammar Schools, St. Joseph's Convent and St. Felix College, pupils being prepared for the New Zealand Public Service and the Cambridge Local Examinations. Manual instruction for boys and cookery for girls are included in the curriculum. At the Convent and the Girls' Grammar School an alternative commercial course may be taken which includes book-keeping, shorthand, and commercial practice. In 1933 St. Joseph's Convent presented ten candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations; six passed. The Boys' Grammar

School presented two candidates for the New Zealand Intermediate Examination, both of whom passed, and five for the University Entrance Examination, four of whom passed.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes which are organized to enable a pupil taking the course to pass into an appropriate class in one of the Grammar Schools without loss of time. These classes are conducted by a former Head Mistress of the Girls' Grammar School and are of great value to children in outlying country districts. Forty-six pupils are enrolled.

Under a scheme of co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji the Grammar Schools in Suva and the Levuka Public School are staffed by trained certificated New Zealand teachers. The syllabus of instruction used is very similar to that used in New Zealand schools.

Three grades of European scholarships, tenable for three years, may be awarded by the Board of Education on the results of competitive examinations. The Local Junior Scholarships provide for free tuition at one of the Suva European schools and a monetary grant of £20 a year to country children under the age of 12 years. The Local Senior Scholarships, one for girls and one for boys under 14 years of age, provide free tuition in the secondary departments and a grant of £5 or £20, according to whether the scholar is or is not resident in Suva. The Fiji Scholarship, of an annual value of £120 and tenable for three years at an approved university or training institute in one of the neighbouring Dominions, is awarded on the results of the Entrance Examination of the University of New Zealand. For financial reasons no Fiji Scholarship was awarded this year.

Approximately half of the cost of European education in Government schools is met from general revenue and half from a special education rate levied in the municipalities on the unimproved value of rateable property. The children of ratepayers are exempt from the payment of fees in the primary departments, but they pay a fee of £6 a year if they are pupils in the secondary departments. The fees for children of non-ratepayers, are £2 2s. 0d. and £7 10s. 0d. a year in the primary and secondary departments respectively. There is a reduction of one-third when two or more members of a family attend school.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for girls and one for boys. The boarding fee is £50 a year with varying reductions for two, three, or more members of the same family. There are also hostels attached to St. Felix College and St. Joseph's Convent. In Levuka, hostels are maintained by the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Missions.

The children on the roll of these European schools number 444 girls and 486 boys. The net cost to Government in 1933 was £4,880 10s. 8d.

A private kindergarten school for pupils under six years of age has been established in Suva.

Fijian Education.

The population of Fiji, estimated at 193,000, is composed mainly of Fijians and Indians. Each race has its own schools. Village vernacular schools for Fijians have long been established by the various Missions and practically all the Fijians can read and write the vernacular. Many of these one-teacher schools are being grouped into district schools under the control of District Commissioners and staffed with trained certificated native teachers as they become available. The standard of instruction given is not high, but it is improving. In 1933, 108 Fijian and Rotuman primary schools received grants-in-aid amounting to £7,508 15s. 9d. The enrolment was 3,477 girls and 4,477 boys, with an average attendance of 85 per cent.

There are six Government provincial schools in which a primary course is given through the vernacular up to standard 3 and through English to standard 5. All these schools are residential. Every effort is made to encourage the practice of Fijian customs and ceremonies, and at least nine hours a week are devoted to instruction in practical agriculture and wood-work. The food gardens of each of these schools cover areas varying from ten to fifteen acres. One school is actively engaged in sugar-cane cultivation, another is developing a dairy herd, and a third has a banana project. The Fijians contribute £4,500 (approximately half the total cost) towards the maintenance of these six schools. Candidates for admission are selected by the local village chiefs, and places are allocated to the various provinces in proportion to their monetary contributions.

Queen Victoria Memorial School is a residential school for Fijians situated five miles from Suva. It is maintained by Government funds. The tuition fee amounts to £6 per pupil per annum. The course provided is an elementary one in which is included agriculture, animal husbandry and wood-work. Twenty-two acres of crops are in cultivation and the school maintains a dairy herd of 24 cows. The roll in 1933 was 84. Pupils are prepared for admission to the Government service, one of the Teachers Training Schools, the Central Medical School and to the Navuso Agricultural School. Many of its former pupils are successfully growing cane for the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

The gross Government expenditure on Fijian primary education and teacher-training was approximately £21,046 9s. 3d. of which £6,937 19s. 10d. was recoverable through fees and provincial contributions.

Indian Education.

In 1933 there were 7 Government and 45 assisted schools for Indians, with a total roll of 3,003 boys and 1,027 girls. Many of these are two-teacher schools under the control of local committees, the members of which for the most part are uneducated and parochial. Each school was inspected during the year and there was evidence of progress which will be accelerated as qualified teachers become available. The medium of instruction in the lower classes is Hindustani. English is taught and tends to become the medium of instruction in the higher classes.

Indian boys may proceed from these schools to the Government Indian school at Natabua, which was established in 1919, where they may prepare for the Entrance Examination of the New Zealand University. The fee in the primary school is 10s. a year and in the secondary department £7 10s. a year. Provision has been made for boarders in a hostel, the fee being £24 a year.

In Suva there are two Roman Catholic schools for non-European children at which pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

A few years ago the instruction given in Indian schools was of a poor quality. Lack of experience on the part of managers, who were often illiterate, lack of qualified teachers, and the complete absence of school material and textbooks each contributed its quota to this undesirable state of affairs. But now that trained teachers are becoming available and managers are taking a keener interest in their duties, and a Hindi-English school journal is being published, the future looks more hopeful.

The net cost to Government of Indian education in 1933 was £10,024 2s. 10d. of which £5,471 2s. 6d. was distributed as grants-in-aid.

Professional and Technical Training.

There are four teacher-training institutions (three Mission and one Government), one medical school, two agricultural training institutions, and two Mission schools for joinery.

Training of Teachers.—The earlier missionaries felt the urgent need for native teachers and tried to satisfy it. As early as 1856 the Methodist Mission established a central institution for the training of pastors and teachers. It was followed by others better situated and with improved curricula, but it was not until 1916 that the present training institute for teachers was established at Davuilevu where teachers are now prepared for the Government Teachers' Examinations. The Catholic and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission for a number of years trained teachers in their own schools, but now each has a teacher-training institution in the island of Ovalau.

The Education Commission of 1926 recommended that a Government institution for the training of teachers be established, and that the Methodist Mission training institute be continued and supported by a more generous system of grants-in-aid. Both of these recommendations were adopted. The number of teachers in training at these and the Catholic Mission institutions during 1933 was 78.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate, candidates must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university, or an equivalent qualification; for the lowest or fifth class the standard required is that which would be attained by an English child passing out of the sixth standard. In 1933 55 Fijians and 11 Indian candidates from training institutions sat for the Teachers' Certificate Examinations, 28 passed and 23 obtained partial passes. The standard of attainment required for a pass is being gradually heightened and already the effect on the efficiency of the schools is very marked. The number of registered teachers in the Colony was 455 and that of recognized teachers was 709.

There is no provision for the training of European teachers, any vacancies being filled by teachers trained overseas.

Central Medical School.—This school is a development of a scheme of medical training for natives inaugurated in 1873 at the Colonial Hospital, Suva. The present school was established in 1928, with the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, and is maintaind by joint contributions from the various Pacific administrations. The school is residential and has accommodation for 40 students. Candidates for admission must have a fair knowledge of English, and selection is made by examination. After a four years' course graduates are granted diplomas in medicine and surgery. There were two graduates in 1933. The decrease in the number of graduates is consequent on the change from a three to a four years' course. The gross cost of the school was £2,735 13s. 7d.

Navuso Agricultural School.—This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides an elementary course in farming and the management of stock. The roll was 100. Government financial assistance amounted to £700.

In 1926 the Government took over 30 acres of the Navuso estate to be used as an experimental station. There are now 9 students at the station receiving instruction in agriculture and a training fitting them to become native agricultural instructors in the provinces.

Physical and Moral Welfare.

In 1932 regulations for the medical examination of school children were made under which School Medical Officers are invested with powers to examine all pupils in registered schools. Indian and Fijian children are entitled to free medical treatment.

Instruction in hygiene and sanitation is emphasized in all schools and pupils are required to keep their school building, conveniences, and grounds clean. Physical exercises and organized games are part of the curriculum of all registered schools. Football, both rugby and association, cricket, and basket-ball are played throughout the Colony, and in certain districts competitions arouse great interest.

An annual grant of £100 and £25 is made by the Government to the Fiji Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides respectively. There is a total roll of 903 Boy Scouts and 146 Girl Guides.

Finance.

The gross expenditure on education during 1933 was £47,944 17s. 10d. out of a total expenditure for the Colony of £569,983 14s. 3d. The gross revenue was £13,755 4s. 3d., representing native and other contributions, education rates of Suva and Levuka, boarding and tuition fees, and sale of school requisites. The net Government expenditure on education was therefore £34,189 13s. 8d. or 3s. 6·46d. per head of the population.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal mail communication is mainly by sea. There are two inter-island steamer services which are subsidised by Government :—

(1) the S.S. *Malake* which runs between Suva, Savusavu, (on Vanualevu) and the island of Taveuni once a month, and between Suva and Lautoka once a month;

(2) the *Sir John Forrest* which provides a service twice monthly between Suva, Levuka, Nambouwalu and Lambasa calling at intermediate places in both directions.

There is also a subsidised daily launch service on the Rewa River between Nausori and Vunindawa. Communication with other parts of the group depends solely upon itinerant vessels which travel according to trade requirements.

On land there is a daily service by motor vehicle between Suva and Nausori, a distance of approximately 12 miles, and there is a weekly service to Korovou, Tailevu. A motor service runs twice weekly between Ellington and Lautoka, calling at Raki Raki, Tavua and Mba.

In March, 1933, Fiji Airways Limited, commenced to operate a local inter-insular passenger service with two seaplanes.

Owing to a mishap which put one machine out of action the Company's operations were seriously hampered; but up to the end of 1933, 292 passengers had been carried and a distance of 17,809 miles flown. During this period 6,105 lb. of passengers' baggage were carried between ports and 1,299 lb. of mail were carried from Suva to outstations in the Colony.

External mail communication is provided principally by the vessels of the Canadian Australasian Mail Line (*Aorangi*, 10,733 tons, *Niagara*, 7,582 tons) and by the vessels of the Matson Navigation Company (*Mariposa* and *Monterey*, 10,580 tons). The former call at Suva once in every four weeks on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver. In the case of the latter, the vessels call at Suva every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney, Auckland, Pango Pango, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco. A four weekly cargo service with limited accommodation for passengers is provided by the S.S. *Waipahi*, the itinerary of which is Sydney, Lautoka, Suva, Nukualofa, Suva, Auckland and returning to Sydney.

There are direct steamers from London to Suva via Panama at approximately six weekly intervals; there are also cargo vessels which proceed to and from Australia and New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom via Panama from time to time.

Telephone communication is provided between Suva, Nausori and Vunindawa; between Suva, Tailevu and Levuka on the island of Ovalau (communication between Tailevu and Ovalau being by submarine cable); between Suva and Navua and between Ra and Tavua, Mba and Lautoka. Telephone Exchange areas are Suva, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, while on the island of Taveuni and on the south-east coast of Vanualevu, rural party line communication is provided for approximately 40 miles in each case. Wireless communication within the group is provided from stations at Suva, Lambasa, Waiyevo and Savusavu, operated by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited. The Government have a permanent station on the island of Rotuma and also a temporary station at Lautoka.

The principal means of communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Imperial and International Communications, Limited. The wireless station at Suva, which is provided with a five kilowatt transmitter, provides external communication to the majority of islands in the Western Pacific and also with Honolulu and Sydney, New South Wales.

It is now possible, in good weather, to drive from Suva to Singatoka via Lautoka, a distance of approximately 235 miles.

Two passenger chars-a-bancs are running a regular service to Lautoka, and there are about 180 others running between intermediate points on the road. The fares range from 1d. per mile.

Nearly all these vehicles are Indian owned and driven, and carry from 8 to 18 passengers.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows :—

	Miles.
Metalled	155¾
Gravelled	299¾
Earth (motorable)	107¼
Earth (not motorable)	57½
Bridle tracks	1,588¾
Total	2,209

The trans-insular and Thuvu Yako roads were completed during the year and at the end of the year it was possible to motor from Suva, via Vitilevu Bay and the west coast, round Sovi Bay, a distance of about 222 miles.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the narrow two-foot gauge laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company on the Rewa River, along the sea coast from Singatoka (south-west Vitilevu) to Tavu (north of Vitilevu), in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Vitilevu, and at Lambasa on the island of Vanualevu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Singatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government.

The total mileage of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles.

About 220 miles of this total length consists of the main line from Singatoka to Tavua with the necessary branch lines.

Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connexion with the transport work of this Company.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £8,780,000, while that of the latter is £6,858,113. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales was £794,229 and by the Bank of New Zealand £383,528 at the 31st December, 1933.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 11,898 to 13,234, while the total amount on deposit at the end of the year was £236,210, an increase over the previous year's figure of £30,624.

The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows :—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1933)	278,964
Cash at Bank and with Treasury	16,095
Total	£295,059

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1933 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from investments ...		10,539
Interest credited to depositors ...	5,902	
Salaries	1,706	
Expenses	666	
		8,274
Surplus		£2,265

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks in the Colony.

The currency in circulation consisted of Government notes and British sterling coins, which are the legal tender of the Colony.

The position of the Note Security Fund at the 31st December, 1933, was as follows :—

	Sterling. £	*Fiji.* £
Liabilities :—		
Notes in circulation ...	—	504,401 0 0
Assets :—		
Note Security Fund—		
Invested Portion ...	628,391 4 0	697,514 4 8
Cash with Crown Agents	48,540 0 2	53,879 8 1
Cash with Colonial Treasurer ...	—	577 11 10
	£676,931 4 2	£751,971 4 7

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for the year 1933 produced a net surplus of £21,827 8s. 9d. which was transferred to the Colony's General Revenue.

During the year currency legislation was introduced permitting the Commissioners to issue notes against sterling drafts on London at the rate of £111 Fiji to £100 sterling.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £148,155 8s. 2d. and was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Personal Emoluments and other charges ...	18,685	1	2
Public Works Recurrent	66,931	9	5
Public Works Extraordinary	6,199	16	5
Loan Works	42,500	2	4
Miscellaneous	13,838	18	10

The corresponding figures for the last five years are given hereunder :—

	£
1929	242,077
1930	212,792
1931	166,690
1932	160,747
1933	148,155

The executive staff of the Public Works Department was reorganized in 1933 and the Executive Engineers were reduced by one, thus there are now three Executive Engineers; two District Engineers and a Mechanical Engineer. The two former are in charge of all civil engineering works and the latter of all mechanical, electrical and marine engineering works as well as the inspections necessary under the Steam Boilers and Electricity Ordinances.

The combined Suva and Eastern district is the most important and is based on Walu Bay near Suva, at which place are situated the Government stores, the machine shops, the repair shops, the Government slipways, the garages of the Department, together with the offices of the District and Mechanical Engineers. The Lautoka district is based on Lautoka, where is situated the office of the District Engineer together with his workshops, garages, etc.

Each district is equipped with its water and motor transport, and with the extension of the road system the latter method of transport has become of primary importance in the economical maintenance of the roads throughout the Colony. The water transport of the materials and labour necessary for the various works in what was formerly the Eastern district is now economically and efficiently carried out by means of the motor ship *Derek*. Vexatious delays in the transport of men and materials are a thing of the past and the Executive Officer can now estimate for the cost of the various works within narrow limits.

The two slipways at Walu Bay were in continuous operation throughout the year, and the tonnage handled was 4,663 and 1,677 for the large and small slipways respectively. The revenue received amounted to the sum of £1,463 12s.

Throughout the year more labour, both skilled and unskilled, was available than was necessary for the works in hand. The average number of skilled and unskilled workmen employed in the Suva district during the year was 247 and 567 respectively.

The expenditure incurred in the Suva district was £91,097 3s. 10d., and of this sum, £57,921 16s. 11d. was spent by the District Engineer and £33,175 6s. 11d. by the Mechanical Engineer.

The works of the greatest magnitude which were in progress or undertaken during the year were the transinsular and Thuvu-Yako roads, the Yangara bridge and the extensions to the Suva water supply. The first three of the works mentioned above were well in hand at the beginning of 1933 and notwithstanding the extremely wet weather which prevailed during the first five months of the year, steady progress was made and the works were completed and the roads opened to traffic before the close of the year. The extensions to the Suva water supply were made for the purpose of increasing the pressure in the south high-level mains, which, due to the increase of population in this area, were incapable of maintaining an adequate supply. Among the minor works undertaken during the year under review were the installation of electric light at the Public Lunatic Asylum, a work that was long overdue, the provision of an additional class room at the Samabula Indian school, necessitated by the increased attendance, and the provision of Native Assistant Masters' quarters at the Londoni and Sawani schools.

The Rewa water supply at the Naililili crossing received attention, the two inch main across the river being duplicated, thus increasing the supply to the native towns scattered over the Rewa delta. Minor extensions to native water supplies were carried out during the year.

The east coast road in the Savusavu district was extended about a mile and the west coast road by about 2½ miles; these lengths were only roughly formed and culverted and will require grading and surfacing during 1934.

The Vuna bridge of reinforced concrete and steel and consisting of one 40 feet span was built on the island of Taveuni. This bridge replaces a wooden structure of some 60 feet in length which had failed owing to age and unsatisfactory foundations.

The Rasekula bridge on the Singatoka river was replaced by a reinforced culvert and the road up the Singatoka valley was extended about one mile in the direction of Mavua.

A new pontoon for the Priestman dredge was completed during the year at a cost of £3,073 12s.

Beaconing of the waterways of the Colony was continued during the year and the sum of £888 1s. was expended on this service. The numerous channels and marine dangers throughout the Colony are now fairly well marked. Work still remains to be done in the Loma Loma lagoon, the north end of Taveuni, Savusavu Bay, Tilengitha passage to Sau Sau passage on the Mathuata coast and the waters between Lautoka and the Yasawas Group. The new spear type beacons, though costly, appear to be very satisfactory as they are easy to drive into hard reefs, provide good flexibility and are easily distinguishable.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these Sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and

Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *Nisi Prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council dated the 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors, with the exception of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, salaried functionaries of any foreign Government not carrying on business, persons employed by the Imperial and International Communications Limited, or by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clergymen and ministers, officers and others on full pay in His Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity or earning an income of less than £150 a year, and persons convicted of any treason, felony, or infamous crime who have not received a full pardon, are disqualified from serving. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Sheriff, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Excutive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adapt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England.

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are: The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, and Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the Magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in which they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of those inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided* in criminal matters when (*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (*b*) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (*c*) a charge has been dismissed, or (*d*) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £3.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. A new edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

There is one Judge in the Colony, the Chief Justice, 17 Magistrates (District Commissioners), 1 District Magistrate who performs the duties of itinerating Magistrate, 63 Justices of the Peace, and 28 Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 35 criminal cases heard at the sessions during 1933 as against 52 for 1932; of these two were murder charges.

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* **Rules, 1906.**

Sixty-nine civil cases were instituted in the Civil Division at the Central Registry and were composed as follows:—

> Money lent 17, goods sold and delivered 12, originating summons 5, specific performance 4, actions for debt 3, actions for damages 2, monies due on accounts 2, monies due under mortgage 2, injunctions 1, recovery of rates 1, possession of land 1, admission of Barristers 1, appointment of Keeper of Lunatic Estate 1, miscellaneous 10. One civil appeal was lodged in 1933 and there were 10 criminal appeals.

In the Divorce Court 15 petitions were filed, of which three were half-caste petitioners, and 12 Indian petitioners. There were 67 petitions for divorce by native Fijians.

Eighty-nine grants were made in the Probate Jurisdiction; of these 34 were grants of probate, 25 Letters of Administration, and 30 re-seals of Colonial and other grants. A total amount of £110,375 15s. 4d. was involved in these grants.

No petitions were filed in the Bankruptcy Court.

There was one application for admission as a barrister and solicitor during the year. There are 13 European and two Indian practitioners in the Colony.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1928 to 1933 is given below.

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil Appeal.*	*Criminal Appeal.*	*Grants of Probate, etc.*
1928	75	5	240	49	2	3	5	69
1929	77	10	175	55	4	1	7	74
1930	115	13	73	48	3	6	3	96
1931	84	12	89	35	2	—	5	66
1932	106	16	79	52	4	2	4	82
1933	103	15	67	35	—	2	12	89

As a result of increasing Court work on the western side of the island, and to facilitate business, a District Registry was opened at Lautoka in 1932, and process (with the exception of Probate applications and proceedings in Divorce) from the districts of Nandroga, Nandi, Lautoka, Mba, Tholo North and Ra are dealt with at that Registry under Supreme Court Rules, 1931. Statistics from this branch are included in the table above from the year 1932.

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of a mixed force of Fijians and Indians officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the Force are at Suva, where there is a Central Station at Totongo and a Depot at Nasova.

Being quasi-military in organization, the Constabulary is required to suppress internal disturbances and also assist in defending the Colony against external aggression.

Special constables may be enrolled in cases of need.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioners.

ARMAMENT AND TRAINING.

The Force is armed with the S.M.L.E. Mk. III rifle. Regular parades are held throughout the year at Headquarters and an annual course of musketry is fired. The Force parades for annual inspection by the Governor and also with the Defence Force on ceremonial occasions. Whenever possible Police training is given, but in the absence of a Reserve it is difficult to arrange a complete course of training.

STRENGTH.

On the 31st December, 1933, the authorized strength was :—

European.

Inspector General	1
Deputy Inspector General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd Grade	7

Fijian.

Non-Commissioned Officers	22
Constables	81

Indian.

Non-Commissioned Officers	13
Constables	69

EXPENDITURE.

The total cost of the Force was £23,202 0s. 9d., being a rate per head of the population of 2s. 5¼d.

CRIME.

Persons prosecuted for offences against the Person	167
Persons prosecuted for offences against Property ...	326
Persons prosecuted for other offences	1,865

Committed for Trial by Supreme Court :—

Offences against the Person	15
Offences against Property	15

Other Offences.

Dealt with by District Commissioners :—

Convicted	2,116
Discharged	212

TRAFFIC.

The Constabulary control traffic in the Colony and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1933 was 1,340, made up as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	523
Public motor-cars	231
Lorries for private use	192
Lorries for carriage of goods and materials	57
Private chars-a-bancs	3
Public chars-a-bancs	181
Motor-cycles	153

Convictions under the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations numbered 438.

Motor vehicles having a gross loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly constructed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

Prisons.

The administration of the prisons throughout the Colony is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons, whose headquarters are at the Central Gaol, Suva.

In addition to the Central Gaol, where all prisoners whose sentences exceed six months are confined, there are 17 provincial gaols where only short-term prisoners are confined. The majority of these are sentenced for breaches of Native Regulations and are not of the criminal type.

In provincial gaols the prisoners are principally employed in the maintenance of Government stations, in cutting firewood, or in manning the Government boats. They are also employed in the prison food plantations, where native foodstuffs are grown with a view to reducing the cost of rations. Only a limited number of prisoners are confined in provincial gaols, any surplus being transferred to the Central Gaol in Suva.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

At the Central Gaol, bread-baking, tailoring, tin-smithing, mat-making, carpentry, gardening, the making of awnings and tarpaulins and saw-milling are taught.

The bakery supplies all Government institutions in and near Suva, the output for the year being 298,009 lb. valued at £2,483 8s. 2d. 2,559 tons of firewood, valued at £1,795 17s. 6d. were cut at the saw-mill and supplied to Government institutions.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

The health of prisoners during the year has been particularly good.

At the Central Gaol there is a fully equipped infirmary, with a Resident Indian Medical Practitioner under the supervision of a European Visiting Medical Officer.

Only those cases requiring major surgical operations are transferred to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. During the year there were 111 admissions, and 2 deaths. The main ailments and diseases treated were influenza, septic-wounds, diarrhœa, gastric ulcers, dyspepsia, and boils.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Ministers and priests of the following denominations are authorized to hold services every Sunday; Anglican, Roman Catholic, Moslem, Sikh, and Hindu. The interest taken by these visiting ministers in the welfare of the prisoners is greatly appreciated by the prison authorities. Religious books are available for any prisoner who asks for them.

TREATMENT OF JUVENILES.

There were 8 juvenile offenders under the age of 16 years committed during the year. These were detained on the Island of Makuluva.

Under the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932, provision is made for the care and supervision of these children.

CLASSIFICATIONS.

Prisoners are classified as follows :—

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment with hard labour.

FINGER PRINT AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

An up-to-date bureau is established at the Central Gaol for the taking of photographs and finger prints.

STAFF.

The Gaoler and Overseers at the Central Gaol are Europeans, as also are the officers in charge of provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists entirely of Fijians and Indians.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

No corporal punishment was inflicted during the year.

XIV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Although subject, in common with all other sections of the community, to the laws of the Colony, the Fijians continue to enjoy a very large measure of self-government. Under the Native Regulations, which were revised in 1927, provision is made for the performance of all duties which are deemed to be for the benefit of the Fijian community. These duties include housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of crops for food or profit, maintenance of roads and communal property, the care of the sick and the control of infectious diseases. The domestic affairs of each district are under the control of a District Council which is composed of tribal Chiefs and village Headmen and is presided over by the Mbuli of the District. Subject to the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to make regulations for the good government of their respective districts, and to elect representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Native Administration of each Province is controlled by a Provincial Council. These Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils, and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. With the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to levy rates to defray the cost of provincial administration, and to make regulations for the good government and welfare of the inhabitants of the respective provinces. They also have the right to elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council, which is composed of native officials, Chiefs nominated by the Governor or the Secretary for Native Affairs, and provincial representatives, meets every two years and advises the Governor on all matters touching the welfare of the natives as a whole. From the Chiefs nominated by this Council the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. This series of Councils provides a means whereby the opinions and aspirations of the Fijian people are adequately represented in the Legislature of the

Colony. Infringements of Native Regulations are dealt with in District and Provincial Courts. A District Court is presided over by a Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and a Provincial Court by a District Commissioner and Native Stipendiary Magistrate. Appeal lies from a District to a Provincial Court and from a Provincial Court, in its original jurisdiction, to the Supreme Court of the Colony. No change was made during the year in the system of native administration, which is well understood by the Fijians and is in accord with native tradition and custom.

Throughout the year the general health of the native population was good, and there were no serious epidemics in any of the districts. The physical well-being of the natives is under the care of the Medical Service, the staff of which is comprised of European Medical Officers and Nurses, Native and Indian Medical Practitioners, and Native Obstetric Nurses. The Native and Indian Medical Practitioners are trained at the Central Medical School attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, and the Native Obstetric Nurses at the Suva and Lautoka hospitals. All Fijians are given free medical and surgical treatment at the general and provincial hospitals, and at the hands of the European and Native Medical Officers throughout the Colony. Many of the Native Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses are not attached to hospitals but travel throughout the country districts and attend to the natives in their own homes.

The campaign for the treatment of ankylostomiasis, yaws, and *tinea imbricata*, under the direction of Dr. Lambert, of the Rockefeller Foundation, was continued energetically throughout the year and much progress was made in the campaign for the improvement of sanitary conditions by the provision of bore-hole latrines. The vital statistics for the year were satisfactory and show improvement over those of the previous year. The total increase in the population was 1,680, as compared with 1,562 in 1932. The total native population at the end of 1933 was estimated at 96,656 which gives an increase of 12,298 since the last census, in 1921.

Child welfare work has been continued and further extended during the year. The control of this work is in the hands of a Central Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Inspecting Medical Officer. District Committees, under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner, have been formed in each district. The Inspecting Medical Officer travelled extensively during the year and was able to visit and supervise the work in many of the distant parts of the Group. Child welfare work has now been extended to practically every district in Fiji. In most of the villages women's committees have been formed, and regular inspections of the children are carried out and minor ailments treated. A second welfare centre has been established in the native section of Suva, and an ante-natal clinic started at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. Although it is, as yet, too early for child welfare work to have any marked effect upon the vital statistics there has been an encouraging decrease in infant mortality in several provinces. There is, however, no doubt that the work has led to considerable improvement in the general health of the women and children, and in the conditions of their houses.

The standard of Fijian education is being slowly but steadily improved. Certificated teachers, trained in the Government and Mission training institutions, are gradually replacing the old type of teacher in the district and group schools. Several new group schools were established during the year, and in many districts the natives have, through their District Councils, levied upon themselves a small education rate. In most cases these rates are supplementary to the salary grants given by the Government and are used for equipment and maintenance expenses. The further development of Fijian district and group schools will depend upon the funds to be made available as grants-in-aid, and to the extent to which the Fijians can afford to supplement these funds. Although funds do not as yet permit of the universal education of the natives, the high standard which is being attained by a large number of group and district schools provides a sure foundation upon which to build in the future. Education of a more advanced type, including practical agricultural and manual instruction, is provided in the Government provincial schools and the central Mission institutions. Selected pupils from these schools may continue their education at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, from which many pass to the Teachers Training Institution, the Central Medical School, the Agricultural Department Training Centre, and the Government and Provincial services. A detailed survey of native education is given in another section of this report.

The majority of the Fijians remain dependent for their livelihood upon the produce of their lands. The past year has again been free from hurricanes and floods. Throughout the whole Group native foodstuffs have been more than sufficient for the needs of the people. The yield of the copra plantations has continued to improve. Unfortunately the market price of copra showed a further decline, the opening price of £10 a ton at ports of export falling to £4 a ton at the end of the year. 22,597 tons were exported as compared with 15,076 tons in 1932. As regards bananas, the average price per case obtained in New Zealand increased from 10s. 10d. in 1932 to 13s. 11d. in 1933, and the average price paid to Fijian growers increased from 2s. 3d. per case to 2s. 8d. per case. The total number of cases exported dropped from 175,128 to 160,668, the Australian market proving unprofitable. 78·1 per cent. of the bananas exported were purchased from the Fijians as compared with 64·3 per cent. in 1932. The year showed a further increase in the quantity of sugar-cane grown by the natives. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company's scheme of settling Fijians on cane lands as tenant farmers continued successfully. This scheme appears now to be firmly established. Apart from providing for the men actually settled on the Company's lands, it is influencing an increasing number of Fijians to cultivate sugar cane on their own tribal lands and in accordance with modern practice. As there are considerable areas of native lands comparatively uncultivated, this development is likely to prove of value to the native and the Colony. The practical training of Fijians, in the Singatoka valley, in modern methods of cultivation and harvesting of crops continued to progress and to receive the enthusiastic support of the natives. In many districts the natives have taken readily to the use of implements and animals, and their ability to adapt themselves to modern requirements gives promise of their future prosperity as agriculturists.

The Council of Chiefs met at Mbau in November, and was opened by His Excellency the Governor. The Council was a success from every point of view. Many important resolutions were passed, one of the most important aiming at making the Council of Chiefs a more democratic body. Other resolutions were in favour of reduction of Court and other fees, and there were several resolutions to effect amendments of the existing legislation governing the leasing of native lands and the renewal of leases.

XV.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics and Allied Questions.

Figures taken from the report of the Registrar-General for 1933 give the estimated Indian population at the end of the year as 80,991 —an increase of 2,016 during the year. The birth-rate per 1,000 was 38·67, and the death-rate 11·37 per 1,000. Infant mortality was 9·33. The number of marriages registered rose from 911 in 1932 to 1,071 in 1933.

The vital statistics for the year may be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and they provide a clear indication of the steady progress in this direction of the Indian community under climatic and economic conditions that are eminently suited to its development. Until quite recently the figures of the Indian population were markedly affected by immigration and emigration. Emigration has declined approximately from 973 in 1924 to 469 in 1933. Immigration commenced its most recent decline after the year 1930 when, both from economic causes, and in the interests of the establishment by natural means of equality in numbers of the sexes (the proportion of females to males being still as low as approximately 7 females to 10 males), the Government was obliged to introduce measures to restrict the immigration on a large scale of unattached Indian males.

In view of the steady maintenance of a rising birth-rate, of a falling death-rate, and of a low rate of infant mortality, it has not been necessary to supplement the medical facilities that are already available to Indians by that particular concentration on child welfare work which was found to be necessary in the case of the native Fijians. On their first arrival in the Colony Indians have experienced little difficulty in conforming with western economic ideas and conditions, and the adaptation required of them in their new environment was limited to climatic and other matters that have proved almost entirely favourable to them. On the other hand, the Fijian race has suffered in its own country the severe shock of sudden contact with an entirely new civilization, which thrust upon it the necessity to compete with social and economic forces that were beyond its comprehension, and introduced new epidemic diseases to the infection of which the natives have proved to be very susceptible.

On the basis of their respective rates of increase it is now anticipated that the Indian population will reach a position of parity with that of the Fijians in from twenty-five to thirty years.

Emigration and Immigration.

REPATRIATION.

Repatriation falls under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance (No. 24 of 1930), and certain limitations are fixed to the rights to free passages of the post-1906 class.

The Government has continued to avail itself of the direct steamer service to India to discharge its obligations with respect to repatriation, and the s.s. *Ganges* which sailed for India on 30th August took 248 souls, equivalent to 221 statute adults, who were provided with free passages to India at the expense of the Fiji Government.

GENERAL.

In addition to the 248 Government passengers to India, 221 Indians left the Colony by various routes during the year, bringing the total of Indian emigration up to 469. The total number of Indians who came to the Colony by overseas vessels during the year was 361; of this number 303 arrived on the *Ganges*. They were mostly made up of the small trader and laundryman classes, and of Indians domiciled in Fiji returning from a holiday trip to India.

The direct service to India both provides an economic way for the Government to discharge its repatriation liability, and accords with the aspirations of many Indians to be in direct communication with their country of origin. If the steady decline in the demand for repatriation continues the service will have to rely for its chief support on ordinary inward and outward passengers and on inward cargo to Fiji.

Economic.

The general improvement in the economic position of the Indian community has been well maintained. No change has occurred in the rates of wages of plantation and other labourers. The available supply is adequate to the Colony's present requirements, and there has been no unemployment. The question of affording security of tenure to the subtenants of irregular small-holdings is engaging the attention of Government. In the sugar industry their position has altered from that of labourers to producers, and while there has been a great increase in recent years of the numbers of Fijians engaged both as growers and labourers, Indians continue to hold the largest share in the Colony's principal industry. The success of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's tenant farmer system has been established for some years, and the greater part of the Company's cane-land is now held by Indian growers, a further extensive area being held by independent cane-farmers. Two-thirds of the Indian agricultural community are engaged in the cultivation of sugar cane and for them the year was a prosperous one. They harvested a bumper crop, returning a heavy density of sugar content.

The value of the sugar industry to Indians cannot be estimated solely on the basis of the number directly engaged as growers and labourers. A large number of Indians who live in and around the sugar areas depend for their livelihood on markets that are made available at the sugar centres, while an increasing number of Indian traders of all descriptions have established more or less profitable businesses in the townships that are springing up around the mills and elsewhere.

While the sugar industry is at present the mainstay of the Indian agricultural community of the Colony, there exist no insurmountable difficulties in the cultivation of other tropical crops. This fact is realized and for some years past the Department of Agriculture has been actively engaged in seeking remunerative markets for other tropical products which the Colony is capable of producing for export. Efforts have been seriously handicapped by the world-wide depression, but there are now definite signs of brighter prospects in the near future. The economic position of the Indian colonist however may be regarded as sound. Land is available, the soil is fertile, and there is no unemployment. From a comparatively small plot of land an Indian farmer can draw all the requirements for himself and his family, with the exception of clothing.

The year was again a favourable one for the cultivation of rice, and markets and prices were well maintained with the aid of measures that have been adopted to protect the industry. Only 280 tons of rice were imported during the year. The rice crop was milled by the Government mill at Suva and by over thirty private " hullers ", owned mostly by Indians. It was decided during the year that after milling the 1933 crop, the Government would cease operating the Government mill. Although Indians engaged in the cultivation of rice have had opportunities to observe the advantages of scientific cultivation, many of them continue to hold with great obstinacy to their primitive methods with the result that the output is below the productive capacity of the soil; and the profits of growers are necessarily small. The importance of rice as a staple food for the Colony's increasing population justifies the efforts that are being made by the Agricultural Department to teach Indians to produce it along sound economic lines.

The temporary suspension of the cotton operations was continued, pending some improvement in the markets. The loss has been severely felt by Indian cotton growers who are experiencing difficulty in finding a marketable substitute for their cotton.

Although very few Indians are employed in the livestock industry, Indians rank high as owners of stock, and the number of peasants who own a few cattle or horses affords an indication of the comfortable position of this class of Indian.

On the commercial side immigrants from Bombay have secured a monopoly of the bootmaking, laundry, jewellery, and tailoring trades, and compete very successfully in the retail store business. Indians also control practically the whole of the motor transport by public vehicle.

Social.

The social progress of the Indian community has been steadily maintained.

Crimes and social abuses that are sexual in their origin are rapidly disappearing. The Fiji Indian has developed the characteristics of self-reliance and self-respect, which exert a favourable influence in maintaining a comfortable standard of home life.

Housing conditions grow better year by year, and Indians readily co-operate with the medical authorities in all matters for the benefit of public health. The sanitation of Indian homes has been greatly improved by the recent introduction on a large scale of the new type of latrine which is being brought into general use under a sanitation campaign organized by the Rockefeller Foundation in co-operation with the Government. With these conditions obtaining it is natural that the Indian community remains remarkably healthy and that generations born in Fiji are of a higher type both mentally and physically than their ancestors.

The Indian Orphans Ordinance, 1933, raised the age of guardianship to 18 years in the case of Indian orphans. This reform accords with the desire of the Indian community, although it conflicts to some extent with the Marriage Ordinance where the age of consent is 16 years for males and 15 for females.

No practical difficulties are expected to arise from this conflict and reforms of the Marriage Ordinance now under consideration contemplate raising the marriageable age of females from 13 to 14 years and age of consent in their case from 15 to 16 years.

There is never complete freedom from religious or sectarian strife over a long period, but the strange fact emerges throughout that only one set of disputants remains in active occupation of the stage at any one time.

During very recent years the succession of events of this nature has been Hindu versus Mohammedan, Sanatan versus Arya Samaj, and now the Orthodox Muslims are at cross purposes with the adherents of the Ahmadiya sect.

This Muslim quarrel is of quite recent origin and was precipitated by a small number of local Ahmadiya converts introducing an Ahmadiya preacher into the Colony in the latter part of 1933 against the wishes of the Orthodox Muslims. Later in the year the Orthodox Muslims captured all the offices of the Fiji Muslim League, which hitherto had controlled Mohammedan activities throughout the year. A deadlock was reached when the Orthodox party demanded, as a condition precedent to any settlement of the dispute, the return of the Ahmadiya preacher to India. This demand was refused and the dispute has since centred round the respective rights of the two parties to the control of worship in the mosques and Muslim education activities.

Political.

The political situation underwent a change when, at the October Session of 1932, the two Indian Members withdrew a motion for common franchise, and remained in the Council while awaiting a reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to their representations. The reply, to the effect that it was impracticable under present conditions to contemplate the adoption of a system of Common Roll representation in preference to the existing system, was announced at the February Session of 1933. Thereupon one Indian Member tendered his resignation while the other Member refused to yield to the request of the articulate politicians to resign from his seat. At the by-election for the vacant seat, which was held in July, the Indian who resigned again stood for election, and defeated the co-operationist candidate by a sweeping majority. Both members occupied their seats throughout the July Session.

A motion for common franchise was again prepared for the October Session but, being for some reason tendered too late, to comply with Standing Orders, it was not considered by the Council at the Session. The Indian Members however attended throughout the Session and participated most usefully in the Council debates.

Administrative.

The Department was administered throughout the year by the Secretary for Indian Affairs, Dr. V. W. T. McGusty, who also held conjointly the post of Inspecting Medical Officer. He was assisted by Mr. A. E. S. Howard, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, who had previously had experience of Indian affairs in District Administration. Mr. Howard left the Colony on 2nd December for service in Tonga and was succeeded by Mr. J. Judd, also a District Administration Officer.

The District Indian Advisory Committees continued to render excellent service. The members of these Committees maintained an enthusiastic interest in their duties and the Committees now form a most important channel for the frequent interchange of opinions on all matters affecting the welfare of the Indian community.

Education.

The Government's obligations with regard to Indian education are carried out in Government schools, of which there are now seven in the Colony, and by the system of grants-in-aid whereunder financial assistance is given to 45 private Indian schools. The Government schools are all patronised to their fullest capacity, and being established in different centres throughout the Colony they set an example which is of value to the owners of private schools. The grant-in-aid system affords the great advantage of encouraging private enterprise among Indians in the establishment of schools, and while it serves to maintain the standard of education at a suitable level, it is also a convenient method of obtaining a reasonable contribution from Indians towards the cost of their education at a period in their evolution when specific taxation on an equitable basis has proved most difficult to devise. Three additional Indian schools were admitted to grant-in-aid during the year, bringing the total of such assisted schools up to 45.

The rolls of Government and assisted Indian schools contain the names of 3,003 boys and 1,027 girls, and the average attendance was 81 per cent.

Teachers are trained at the Government Teachers' Training School at Lautoka, and at the Methodist and Roman Catholic Mission institutions which receive financial assistance from the Government. A higher standard of efficiency is now required of the teachers, and out of 136 Indian students who sat for their

Certificate examination 36 obtained complete passes, and another 53 obtained partial passes. The results of requiring a better class of teacher are becoming apparent in the rapid disappearance of the old type of inefficient village schoolmaster, and his replacement by a type of young man who is very much better equipped for the duties of a teacher.

The standard of all schools is well maintained by a system of regular inspections by the Inspector of Indian Schools.

XVI.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1933, of which the following are the principal :—

The Matrimonial Causes Ordinance reproduces the law as it stands in England to-day on the subjects of divorce, nullity of marriage, judicial separation, and the restitution of conjugal rights.

The Fiji Currency Notes Ordinance provides for the manner in which the currency needs of the Colony will in future be met. It gives the Commissioners of Currency power to issue currency notes in the Colony to the equivalent value (at the rate of £111 Fiji for £100 sterling) of sums lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay out on demand through the Crown Agents to any person desiring to receive sterling in London the value of currency notes lodged in the Colony at the rate aforesaid. Provision is made for a Note Security Fund and a Currency Note Income Account, and sections are included which deal with evidence in criminal proceedings, forgery and imitation of currency notes, possession of counterfeit notes, and defacing of notes.

The Bahamas and Leeward Islands Light Dues Ordinance provides for the collection of light dues from ships calling at any port in the Colony which have derived benefit from certain lighthouses in the Bahamas and Leeward Islands.

The Life Assurance (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the issue of special policies in place of those which have been lost or destroyed mainly owing to hurricanes and floods. At the same time the companies are relieved of liability under the original policies which may have been lost or destroyed.

The Land (Transfer and Registration) Ordinance brings up to date the law relating to registration of title to land under the Land Transfer System. New powers, some of them of a semi-judicial nature, are conferred upon the Registrar of Titles with a view *inter alia* to decreasing the costs of certain proceedings and for this reason it is provided that any future appointee to that post shall be a qualified barrister or solicitor. An Assurance Fund is established out of which any persons sustaining loss by reason of any omission, mistake or misfeasance of the Registrar or any of his officers may be compensated.

The Trade Marks Ordinance brings the law dealing with trade marks into line with modern practice.

The Designs Ordinance provides for the registration of industrial designs. There was formerly no legislation on this subject in the Colony.

The Public Officers' Protection Ordinance protects persons acting in the execution of statutory and other public duties, and its general effect is to limit actions against public officials to six months after the act, neglect or default giving rise to the action.

The Forced Labour Prohibition Ordinance carries out certain obligations under the Treaty of Versailles, and, in accordance with the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, forbids the exaction or employment within the Colony of forced labour as defined in the Ordinance.

The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance gives additional powers to the Health Authorities with the object of improving sanitary conditions, especially in towns.

The Fruit Export and Marketing (Amendment) Ordinance empowers the Government to appoint a particular firm or firms in the particular country concerned, to act as agents for the disposal of all bananas exported to that country, in an endeavour to enable prices to be maintained at a remunerative level.

The Immigrants (Amendment) Ordinance makes certain amendments to the Immigrants Ordinance 1909 with the object of providing for greater control by the authorities over undesirable or destitute immigrants.

The Native Lands (Amendment) Ordinance clarifies the provisions of the law with regard to compensation to outgoing lessees for improvements effected by them on native lands.

The Native Lands (Occupation) Ordinance is designed to encourage Fijians, who desire to become independent planters and to live outside the communal system, by creating machinery to enable them to acquire individual tenure of land, for a period not exceeding ten years, in an inexpensive and simple manner.

PARTICULARS OF FACTORY LEGISLATION, COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS LEGISLATION, AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SICKNESS, OLD AGE, ETC.

The only legislation on any of the above subjects is the Steam Boilers Ordinance, 1915, which provides for compensation for accidents to persons in connexion with steam boilers. A bill relating to the payment of compensation to workmen has been drafted and is under consideration.

XVII.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	—	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	—	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	—	147,140
1932 ...	547,461	528,604	449,743	283,746	—	165,997
1933 ...	605,201	569,984	590,660	389,446	—	201,214

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931 but increased at the end of 1933 to £201,214.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1933, was as under :—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928)	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordiance No. 2 of 1929) ...	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932) ...	154,996
Total ... ... (sterling)	£1,091,404

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928 and is redeemable between 1946-53. The stock bears interest at 5 per cent. and was issued at 101.

A second loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorised in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and is redeemable in 1955. During that year, £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. The loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Public Works Loan, sufficient to produce £160,000, was raised in 1932 by the Crown Agents in two instalments, on 2nd August and 3rd November, at the price of £102 and £105 respectively for each £100 of stock. This loan bears interest at 4 per cent. and sinking fund contribution is at the rate of 2·32 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st February, 1959.

The sinking fund in connexion with the Specific Loan amounted to £40,282 Fiji at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £20,627 Fiji. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £7,905 Fiji at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan amounted to £3,640 Fiji at the close of the year.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year amounted to £605,201, an increase of £57,740 as compared with 1932. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows :—

	£
Customs	311,750
Port, wharfage, and light dues	21,731
Native taxes	16,315
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified	101,889
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes and reimbursements-in-aid	60,039
Post Office	24,416
Rent of Government property	12,653
Interest	37,892
Miscellaneous	17,316
Land sales and premia on leases	1,200

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income-tax were £18,126, £4,600 and £32,311 respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £22,169. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-Accountant by March of each year. Penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment provided that British Empire material and labour represent not less than 25 per cent. in most cases, 50 per cent. in others, and in one or two cases 75 per cent. of the value of the goods, and that the final process of manufacture was performed within the Empire.

On most articles subject to *ad valorem* duty the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and benzine on which duties of 9d. and 5d. per gallon respectively are levied irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty :—

Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; church furniture; infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weedkillers; wire netting galvanized of not less than 4 inch mesh; wire galvanized fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries :—

Animals; birds and fish living; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; periodicals and music printed; coconuts; collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty :—

Agricultural implements and butter making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem* if of British manufacture and 25 per cent. *ad valorem* if of foreign manufacture; agricultural machines; sugar making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following are some of the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty :—

Ale and beer in bottles 4s. a gallon British preferential rate, 6s. a gallon general rate; confectionery 3d. a lb. plus 10 per cent. British preferential rate and 6d. a lb. plus 30 per cent. general rate; cornflour 1d. a lb. and 1½d. a lb.; cinema films free British preferential rate and 3d. per 100 feet general rate; dried ginger per 1d. lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; matches, wooden, in boxes containing not more than 60 matches British preferential rate per gross boxes 4s. 6d., general rate 6s. 9d. per gross; hops

1s. a lb. and 2s. a lb.; macaroni and vermicelli 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; maize 6d. a bushel and 10½d. a bushel; malt extract, non spirituous, 1s. a lb. and 1s. 9d. a lb.; oatmeal, 1d. per lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; soap plain 1d. a lb. and 2d. a lb.; spices 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; tea 6d. a lb. containing no less than 75 per cent. British growth and 9d. a lb.; tobacco manufactured 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber rough 2s. and 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber dressed 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines still 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines sparkling 10s. and 15s. a gallon.

During 1933 the principal of imposing alternative rates of duty on certain articles was inaugurated. Some of the articles now subject to alternative rates of duty are :—

Bicycles, preferential rate 15s. each or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty. General rate 30s. each or 40 per cent.

Boots and shoes rubber and canvas, British preferential rate 6d. to 1s. per pair according to sizes or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. General rate 1s. 7½d. to 2s. 1½d. or 40 per cent.

Textile piece-goods—British preferential rate 1d. to 3d. per yard according to width or 20 per cent. General rate, 2d. to 6d or 40 per cent.

Hats and caps, men's and boys'—British preferential rate 6d. each or 20 per cent., general rate 1s. or 40 per cent.

Shirts—British preferential rate 4s. to 6s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. to 12s. or 40 per cent.

Singlets or undervests—sizes up to 28 inches, per dozen, 1s. preferential rate, general rate 2s., sizes exceeding 28 inches, per dozen, 2s. preferential rate and 4s. general rate; or *ad valorem* 20 per cent. preferential rate, 40 per cent. general rate, whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Towels bath and face exceeding 24 inches in length—British preferential rate 2s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 4s. or 40 per cent.

Umbrellas, parasols and sunshades—each, British preferential rate 6d., general rate 1s. or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Electric lamp bulbs, incandescent filament, having, at the marked voltage, a power consumption—

Not exceeding 8 watts, each, British preferential rate 1d., general rate 2d.

Exceeding 8 watts and not exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 2d., general rate 4d.

Exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 3d., general rate 6d. or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Wrapping paper—British preferential rate 5s. per cwt. or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. 9d. or 40 per cent.

Spirits, perfumed and scented waters—British preferential rate 26s. and 10 per cent. per liquid gallon or 20 per cent., general rate 39s. per gallon and 25 per cent. or 40 per cent.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff but aims at fostering, as far as possible, local industries, and in this regard affords protection to the rice industry by imposing a duty of £2 per ton under the British preferential rate and £3 per ton under the foreign rate, and provides, further, that if the cost, duty paid and landed at a Customs shed at a port of entry in the Colony, falls below £15 per ton, the duty shall be increased by such amount as shall bring such landed cost duty paid to £15 per ton. It provides, further, for the admission free of duty of bags and sacks over two bushels.

Protection is also afforded to the local butter industry by the imposition of a duty of 4d. per pound on all fresh butter imported and provides for the admission free of duty of boxes of wood made up or in shooks to be used as containers of butter the produce of the Colony.

The soap industry is also protected by a duty of 1d. per pound under the British preferential rate and 2d. per pound under the general tariff rate on soap, laundry, in bar or cake, and sandsoap, and, with a view to affording further assistance to this industry, the tariff was recently amended providing for the admission free of duty of resin and tallow of British manufacture which previously paid a duty of 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively.

XVIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

The total rainfall for the year at Suva was 151·40 inches which is 33·10 inches in excess of the average of 118·30 inches over a period of 49 years. Rain was recorded on 259 days, the greatest amount on any one day being 7·46 inches on 15th December. The four months January, July, August, and September were very dry, each showing considerable deficiency. February, May, and June showed a slight excess, whilst the remaining months were exceptionally wet. The rainfall for March was 13·35 inches above normal, whilst April, with a total of 33·09 inches (the greatest ever recorded for this month) exceeded the average by 20·65 inches.

There are 42 stations throughout the Colony at which a record of the rainfall was kept during the year.

The greatest rainfall recorded during the year was 202·15 inches at Salialevu (Taveuni), while Nandarivatu (Tholo North) had the wettest month, 51·76 inches falling in March. The least rainfall, viz., 61·12 inches, was recorded on the Island of Kanathea (Lau).

During March and April, floods occurred on the main rivers of Vitilevu and Vanualevu, especially the Mba and Singatoka Rivers.

TEMPERATURES.

The mean temperature for the year was 77·8°F. as compared with the average of 77·0°F. over a period of 49 years. February was the hottest month with a mean temperature of 82·3°F. (the average being 80·4°F.), July was the coolest with a mean temperature of 73·0°F. (the average being 73·5°F.).

PRESSURE.

Pressure was below normal during the summer months except December and above normal during the cool months.

WINDS.

The direction of the prevailing wind during the year was East, 254 observations of East winds being recorded out of a possible of 730. The following table gives a summary of wind observations recorded during the year at observation hours :—

N.	*N.E.*	*E.*	*S.E.*	*S.*	*S.W.*	*W.*	*N.W.*	*Calms.*
83	129	254	95	34	13	16	6	100

The maximum wind velocity recorded during the year was 43 m.p.h. (force 8) from West at 2.14 p.m. on the 10th September.

SUNSHINE.

The total number of hours of bright sunshine for the year was 1,914·1; November the most with 235·0 hours, and April the least with 95·9 hours.

CYCLONES.

No cyclonic disturbances of sufficient magnitude to damage property were experienced during the year. Suva is the central reporting station, and during the hurricane season it is possible to give warnings of practically all cyclonic disturbances in this portion of the Pacific.

SUMMARY.

The following table gives a summary of meteorological observations at Suva during the year 1933 :—

MONTHLY MEANS FOR THE YEAR 1933, SUVA STATION, TAKEN AT 8.30 A.M. AND 3.30 P.M.

Months.	*Mean Pressure in inches.*		*Air Temperature (F°).*											*Mean Vapour Pressure in Millibars.*		*Mean Relative Humidity (Saturation = 100).*		*Mean amount of Cloud (0—10).*	
			Mean Dry Bulb.		*Mean Wet Bulb.*		*Means of*		*Mean.*	*Absolute Max. and Min.*									
							Max.	*Min.*		*Max.*	*Date.*	*Min.*	*Date.*						
	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*								8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*	8.30 *a.m.*	3.30 *p.m.*
January......	29·769	29·710	81·5	85·7	75·4	77·0	88·1	75·0	81·5	96	10	72	19	27·3	28·1	74·5	66·7	5·7	6·4
February.....	29·771	29·708	82·0	84·3	77·6	78·5	88·3	76·3	82·3	92	7, 13, 14	75	1/5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 27	30·4	30·6	81·3	76·8	6·4	8·1
March	29·796	29·735	80·5	83·2	76·9	77·7	86·3	75·3	80·8	91	5	72	25	30·0	30·0	84·1	77·8	7·0	7·7
April	29·875	29·808	78·9	80·7	75·9	76·7	83·9	73·9	78·9	92	12	71	1	29·3	29·8	86·6	83·7	7·5	8·8
May	29·954	29·882	76·4	79·1	73·1	74·2	81·7	72·0	76·9	86	26	68	22	26·4	26·8	85·4	79·2	6·7	7·6
June	29·983	29·913	75·0	77·2	70·8	71·9	80·0	71·0	75·5	87	9	67	6, 16, 17, 28	24·0	24·5	81·0	77·0	6·8	8·1
July	30·014	29·941	72·6	76·3	67·7	69·3	78·6	67·5	73·0	86	22	62	16	21·1	21·3	77·2	68·3	7·0	5·9
August	30·050	29·970	73·9	76·9	69·7	70·7	79·3	68·6	73·9	88	10	65	1, 4, 7, 19, 20	23·1	22·9	80·4	72·7	7·0	7·0
September...	30·025	29·951	76·0	78·1	70·7	71·7	81·5	70·8	76·1	88	10	65	1, 2	23·4	23·8	76·3	72·6	7·6	7·4
October	29·978	29·896	76·7	78·6	71·9	72·6	81·3	71·1	76·2	87	20	64	7	24·3	24·8	77·1	74·0	7·9	7·5
November....	29·889	29·821	80·0	81·1	74·6	74·9	85·4	72·6	79·0	90	3, 17	69	14	26·8	26·8	77·3	74·8	6·4	7·3
December....	29·852	29·790	81·0	82·9	76·2	76·6	85·9	74·6	80·2	92	31	72	16	28·7	28·5	79·8	74·6	6·5	7·3
Year	29·913	29·844	77·9	80·3	73·4	74·3	83·4	72·4	77·9	—	—	—	—	26·2	26·5	80·1	74·9	6·9	7·4

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Highest Pressure—30·165° on June 27th at 8.30 a.m.
Lowest Pressure—29·471° on January 10th and March 27th at 3.30 p.m.
Highest Temperature in Shade—96° on January 10th.
Lowest Temperature in Shade—62° on July 16th.
Greatest Range—20° on July 22nd and August 4th and 10th.
Least Range—2° on April 27th.
Greatest Amount of Rain in 24 hours—7·64″ on December 15th.
Maximum Wind Velocity—43 miles per hour (force 8) from W. at 2·14 p.m. on September 10th.

DESCRIPTIVE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY.

January.—A very dry and hot month. A temperature of 96°F. which was recorded on the 10th is the highest temperature recorded since December, 1927. Rainfall was 6·60 inches less than normal.

February.—The first half of the month was very hot, the average maximum temperature being 90°F.; the latter half was wet and unsettled and consequently cooler. Temperature and rainfall were slightly in excess of normal.

March.—An exceptionally wet month, rainfall being 13·35 inches above the average. There were only two fine days; the heaviest rainfall was experienced between the 21st and 28th when 21·25 inches fell in the eight days. A cyclone which passed to the west and south of Suva during this period was responsible for the heavy falls. Temperature was slightly in excess of normal.

April.—The total rainfall was 33·09 inches being 20·65 inches in excess of normal. This is the greatest ever recorded for April which is the wettest month of the year. There were only three days without rain. Temperatures were normal but humidity high.

May.—A humid month otherwise normal, temperature and rainfall being only slightly above the average.

June.—A normal month except for rainfall which was high. 4·76 inches fell on the 15th.

July.—A dry and comparatively cool month, rainfall being 3·28 inches less than normal. One of the driest Julys on record.

August.—Another dry month. Rainfall was 5·13 inches less than normal.

September.—Another dry month although cloudy. Trade winds which blew for the greater part of the month reached force 6 to 7 at times. Temperature was 1·6° above normal whilst the rainfall was 5·89 inches less.

October.—A wet month and fairly cold for the time of the year. A wet spell occurred between the 18th and the 26th. On the 19th, 3·39 inches of rain fell between 2.10 a.m. and 3.48 a.m. Trade winds continued to blow for the first week of the month.

November.—A wet and warm month. Nine thunderstorms occurred. On the 27th, 2·17 inches of rain fell between 4.22 p.m. and 5.10 p.m.

December.—A warm, wet and humid month. Rainfall was 6·22 inches in excess of normal and temperature 1·3°F. in excess.

XIX.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., returned from leave spent in the United Kingdom on 3rd August, 1933, after an absence of eight and a half months, and the Honourable A. W. Seymour, who had been administering the Government, resumed duty as Colonial Secretary.

When the Estimates for 1933 were passed by the Legislative Council, in October, 1932, a revenue of £568,050 was budgeted for and an expenditure of £558,330, leaving an excess of estimated revenue over estimated expenditure of £9,720. The actual revenue for the year was £605,201 and the actual expenditure £569,984, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of £35,217.

The Budget for 1934 was passed at the October session with an estimated revenue of £574,828, and an estimated expenditure of £598,611, but the anticipated deficit of £23,783 in 1934 is more than covered by the surplus which accrued in 1933.

The total quantity of raw sugar exported during the year was well above the average for the last five years. Prices for copra on the world's market reached extremely low figures, however, and serious hardship has been caused to the coconut growing community; the Government has appointed a Committee to enquire into and report on the best means of assisting the industry.

160,248 cases and 839 bunches of bananas were exported in 1933, of which Australia absorbed 20,171 cases and 742 bunches.

1,636 ounces of gold were exported from a gold mine at Yanawai on Vanualevu. Certain gold fields recently discovered at Tavua on Vitilevu are in the process of being opened up, and the Mining Board's records show that active prospecting work for gold is being carried out.

Three sessions of Legislative Council were held in February, July and October, and a special meeting on the 28th March. At this latter meeting a resolution was passed empowering the Commissioners of Currency to offer to buy and sell, in exchange for Fiji currency notes, drafts or telegraphic transfers on London for sums of not less than £5,000, at the rate of £111 Fiji for £100 sterling subject to reasonable commission to be fixed by the Commissioners. At the July session an Ordinance was passed to provide for the issue of new Government currency notes.

The German cruiser *Koln* paid a visit to Suva from the 23rd to the 30th of May, and the Colony was visited later during the year by H.M.S. *Diomede*, H.M.S. *Veronica*, and H.M.S. *Laburnum* of the New Zealand squadron of the British Navy.

Among the Birthday Honours a knighthood was conferred on the Honourable Henry Marks, C.B.E., who for many years was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils and Mayor of Suva, and among the New Year's Honours a Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred on the Honourable A. W. Seymour, Colonial Secretary.

A meeting of the Great Council of Native Chiefs was held in November on the historic island of Mbau.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publisher or Agents.*	*Price.*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.).	6s.
Viti. By Berthold Seeman	Macmillian and Co., Ltd., London. 1862	10s.
King and People of Fiji. By Rev. J. Waterhouse.	Wesleyan Conference Office. 1866	
Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson	Heineman, London. 1905	25s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922	21s.
Journal of William Lockerby	Hakluyt Society, Cambridge University Press. 1925	
Journal of Thomas Williams. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 2 vols. 1931	
Fiji and Fijians, 1835-1856. By Prof. G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London	25s.
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Murray, London. 1933	15s.

The following official publications can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W. 1, or from the Government Printer, Suva.

The Colony of Fiji—1874-1931. Lib. edition 6s. Mag. edition 4s.

Annual Blue Book, 1933. 5s.

Census Report, 1921. 5s.

Forests of the Colony of Fiji—Report by Mr. R. A. Sykes (without maps). 2s.

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, 1933 2s.

Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture, 1933 1s.

The Agricultural Journal, published half-yearly or more frequently if required, is obtainable from the Director of Agriculture, Suva. 1s. per copy.

Postage is charged extra on all official publications.

A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—1874-1931."

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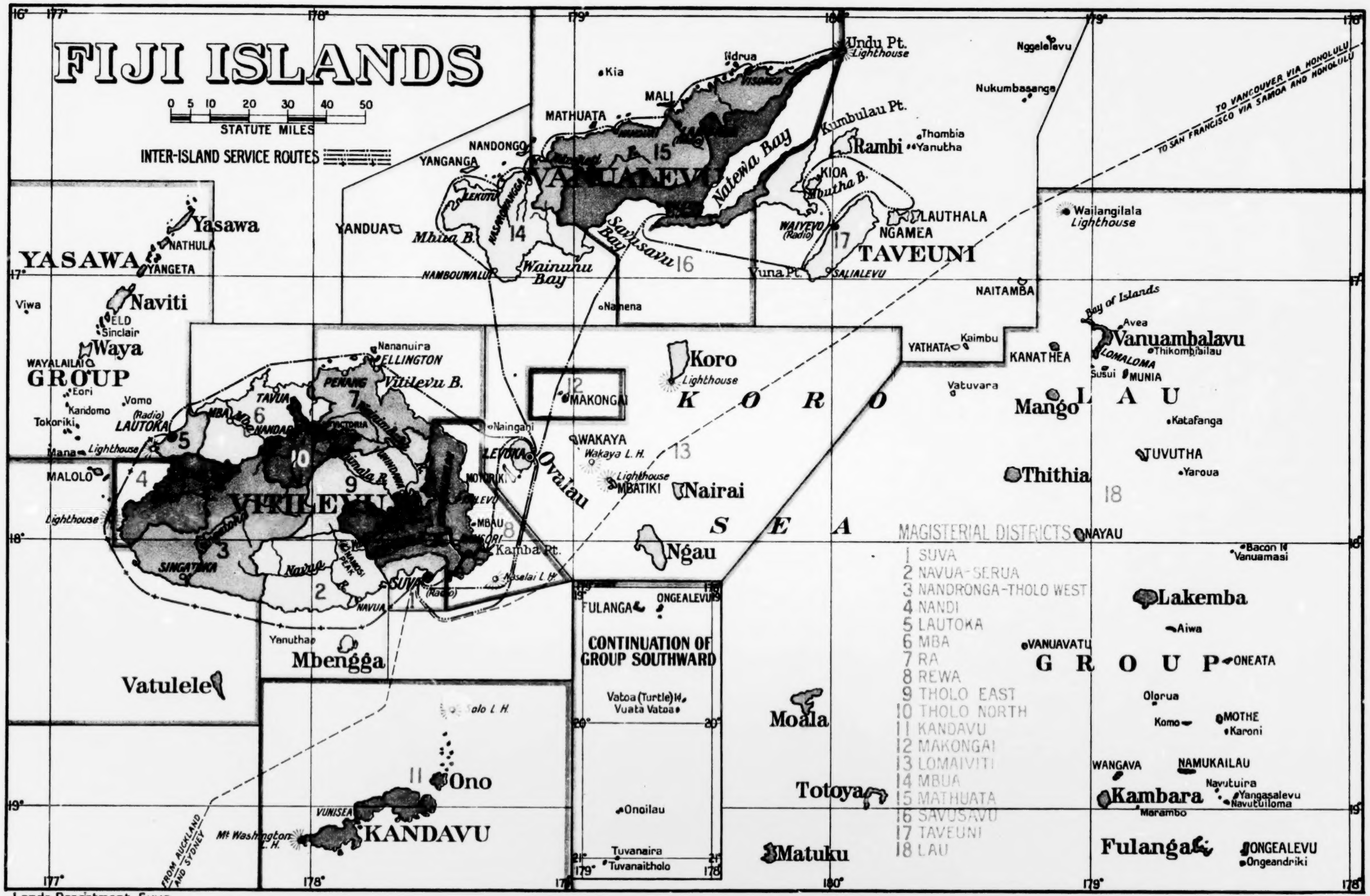
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Tuvanaitholo
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7 RA
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15 MATHUATA
16 SAVUSAVU
17 TAVEUNI
18 LAU
16° 177° 178° 179° 180° 179° 178°
17° 18° 19° 20° 21°

Lands Department, Suva.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.
Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

MALTA.
Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 11*d*.).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s*. (5*s*. 9*d*.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s*. (4*s*. 4*d*.).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

KENYA.
Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s*. 6*d*. (3*s*. 9*d*.).

SWAZILAND.
Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 9*d*.).

MALAYA.
Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

SEYCHELLES.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s*. 3*d*. (1*s*. 5*d*.).

MAURITIUS.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

WEST INDIES.
Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

BRITISH GUIANA.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

PALESTINE.
Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

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LONDON: Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street
MANCHESTER 1: York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent
BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
Or through any Bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

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FIJI, 1934

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji which is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean, is composed of a group of some 250 islands, which lie between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east. Only about 80 of these islands are inhabited. The largest island is Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanua Levu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kandavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, which is situated on the south-east side of Viti Levu, is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. Fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called " soapstone ") and limestones are extensively found on Viti Levu. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nambukelevu, on Kandavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Viti Levu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korombasambasanga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanua Levu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate is cool for the tropics, and the country is remarkably free from zymotic and endemic diseases. The malarial mosquito is absent.

The highest temperature in the shade at Suva in 1934 was 95 degrees on 20th January, and the lowest 63 degrees on 19th and 20th July and on 2nd September. The total rainfall at Suva was 134·33 inches. The average annual rainfall is 118·61 inches. There is a great variety of temperature and climate to be found in the Group. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, hurricanes and cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Undu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over one hundred and thirty years. Captain Cook made a survey of Vatoa, one of the most southerly islands in the Group, and the neighbouring waters in 1774, and Bligh, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of 39 islands including the principal Viti Levu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive, though somewhat inaccurate, chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work "Discoverers of the Fiji Islands" (see Appendix*).

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Mbau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Mbau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Mbau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanua Levu, where he carried on a war with natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

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* Page 80.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakemba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Thakaundrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Mbau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Mbauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Mbau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Mbau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Thakombau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony preferred claims against Thakombau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Thakombau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him twelve months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Thakombau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required ", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified, and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858 ". The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton, caused by the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Mbauan Chief, Thakombau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and subsequently the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable. and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Thakombau, the Chief of Mbau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Group and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by persons of European descent, who are British subjects, and are possessed of a small property or income qualification.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the rate-payers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are two proclaimed townships in the Colony, Nausori in the district of Rewa, and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the Chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Mbau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Mbauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of approximately 2,500, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number over 83,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of approximately 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population of Fiji on the 31st December, 1934, was as follows:—

> Europeans 4,763; half-castes 3,717; Fijians 98,479; Polynesians 1,866; Indians, 82,389; Rotumans 2,498; Chinese 1,486; others 1,351; making a total population of 197,449. Of this total, Fijians comprised 49·88 per cent., Indians 42·18 per cent., and Europeans 2·41 per cent. The estimated population shows an increase of 40,183 since the census of 1921, or an aggregate rate of increase of 31·91 per cent. The European population again shows an estimated decrease, being 41 less than the estimated total for 1933.

On the 31st December, 1934, it was estimated that there were 26·55 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population is estimated at ·34 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population is 178·43 to the square mile.

There were 7,196 births registered during the year, which is an increase of 230 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1927 to 1934:—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Europeans	24·78	17·42	19·88	16·94	17·20	16·04	16·03	8·82
Half-castes	23·08	32·56	35·96	30·30	43·82	38·61	39·88	24·21
Fijians	32·53	33·36	31·91	36·43	35·34	34·32	35·10	37·52
Rotumans	50·57	52·21	50·75	54·91	46·95	39·47	50·38	36·83
Indians	27·72	34·90	34·86	36·02	33·45	38·44	38·67	37·19

The Rotuman birth-rate shows a decrease, and the Indian birth-rate is also less than the previous year.

There were 3,054 deaths registered during the year, which is 207 more than in 1933. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1927 to 1934 :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Europeans	9·60	7·62	8·46	9·45	9·09	6·79	8·74	6·93
Half-castes	7·37	9·39	9·44	14·70	11·03	9·86	9·01	9·15
Fijians	22·98	24·95	24·66	31·24	22·22	17·88	17·72	19·78
Rotumans	36·29	51·77	48·10	27·03	14·54	19·12	24·99	46·04
Indians	9·42	10·80	9·06	12·30	10·19	8·40	11·37	10·15

The deaths under one year per thousand births were : Europeans 23·81 ; Half-castes 55·56 ; Fijians 126·35 ; Indians 82·96 ; Rotumans 358·70 ; Total 108·25.

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1927 to 1934 :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Europeans	34	47	46	33	38	32	27	32
Half-castes	16	41	28	21	18	23	40	33
Fijians	700	906	973	744	1,085	766	833	778
Rotumans	28	11	27	15	29	25	26	16
Indians	254	276	879	1,926	954	911	1,071	1,038

The marriage-rates per thousand of the population were : Europeans 6·72 ; Half-castes 8·88 ; Fijians 7·90 ; Indians 12·46 ; Rotumans 3·41 ; Total 9·75.

A return of the population and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total		Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.	Population to the square mile.	Persons employed in			Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.	
		Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industry.	Professional and Commercial.	Number	Rate per 1,000.		Number	Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.																	
Europeans—																	
Fiji ...	7,241	2,274	1,574	—	—		3,878	—	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	14	23	7	—	—												
Half-castes—																	
Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304		2,781	—	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	—	—	—	29	23												
Fijians ...	—	—	—	44,022	40,453		84,475	—	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—	—	—
Indians ...	—	—	—	37,015	23,619		60,634	—	8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—	—	—
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,271	293		1,564	—	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,129	1,106		2,235	—	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese ...	—	—	—	845	65		910	—	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	—	—	—	431	358		789	—	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221		157,266	—	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1934.																	
Europeans	—	2,444	2,319	—	—		4,763	—	0·64	—	—	—	42	8·82	32	33	6·93
Half-castes	—	—	—	1,910	1,807		3,717	—	0·50	—	—	—	90	24·21	33	34	9·15
Fijians ...	—	—	—	50,498	47,918		98,479	—	13·24	—	—	—	3,696	37·52	778	1,948	19·78
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,252	614		1,866	—	0·25	—	—	—	39	20·90	12	51	27·31
Indians ...	—	—	—	48,748	34,541		83,289	—	11·20	—	—	—	3,098	37·19	1,038	845	10·15
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,244	1,254		2,498	—	0·34‡	—	—	—	92	36·83	16	115	46·04
Chinese ...	—	—	—	1,332	154		1,486	—	0·20	—	—	—	20	13·47	—	4	2·69
Others ...	—	—	—	868	483		1,351	—	0·18	—	—	—	119	88·08	17	24	17·76
Totals	7,435	2,444	2,319	105,852	86,834		—	—	26·55	—	—	—	7,196	36·44	1,926	3,054	15·47
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—		197,449	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

---

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

‡ Includes Fiji with the Island of Rotuma. The actual population to the square mile in the Island of Rotuma is 178·43.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the Police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) and of Indian and Polynesian immigrants is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1934 :—

EMIGRATION—1934.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,936	4,763	40·6
Indians	350	83,289	·4
Chinese	88	1,486	5·9
Pacific Islanders ...	134	102,843	·1
Others	—	1,351	—

IMMIGRATION—1934.

Class.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	1,886	4,763	39·6
Indians	415	83,289	·5
Chinese	82	1,486	5·5
Pacific Islanders ...	209	102,843	·2
Others...	5	1,351	·4

IV.—HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of 16 Medical Officers under the direct control of the Chief Medical Officer, and an Inspecting Medical Officer whose services are only partly devoted to medical work. A qualified bacteriolgist has charge of a bacteriological laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. In Suva, the principal port of entry, the Medical Officer of Health is responsible for quarantine and sanitation, assisted by a staff of three European, one Fijian, and two Indian Sanitary Inspectors. During the year, pratique was granted to 144 vessels entering the port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 3,247 passengers, 2,364 members of crews and 25 labourers.

In the country districts the control of health matters and sanitation is in the hands of nine District Medical Officers, 58 Native medical practitioners, and four Indian medical practitioners. There is also one European Sanitary Inspector, who is at present seconded to the Rockefeller Foundation as officer in charge of the soil sanitation campaign, and six Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

A very complete system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 120 beds, an operating theatre and an X-ray plant, and caters for all classes of the community. During the year, 2,398 persons were admitted, the daily average number of in-patients being 106·45. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The Australian Nursing Association accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examinations. The medical and nursing staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron, an Assistant Matron, four trained Sisters and thirteen European probationer nurses. In addition there are 21 native nurses in training.

The Methodist Mission conducts a hospital for Indian women at Ba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Ba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are 14 provincial hospitals and some 29 dispensaries in the Colony, where Fijians and Indians may obtain free medical treatment.

The Central Medical School, erected six years ago, is situated in the Suva Hospital grounds, and includes lecture-rooms, library, museum, laboratory, dissecting rooms, and two separate dormitories. The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and maintenance of the school, and at the end of the year under review presented a further sum of £2,200 towards the construction of a Pathological Laboratory to be attached to the School. The teaching staff now consists of a whole-time tutor and fourteen honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students, who are all boarders, include seventeen Fijians, one Indian, four Tongans, five Samoans, four Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, one Cook Islander, three Solomon Islanders, and one from the New Hebrides, making a total of thirty-six on 31st December. Dormitory accommodation is available for a maximum number of forty students.

The syllabus of instruction, which now covers a period of four years, is divided into three sections; the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy, and physiology; and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, mid-wifery, etc.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as medical practitioners, and they are then given appointments in country districts, or are attached to a hospital under a European Medical Officer. A subordinate medical service has thus been created consisting of 58 native medical practitioners and five Indian medical pactitioners. In addition, the Central Medical School has already turned out twenty-two similarly qualified native medical practitioners who are in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, and the British Solomon Islands.

The Central Medical School took the place of the former Fiji Medical School, at which from the years 1888 to 1928 Fijian students received training in medicine.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of a Central Executive Committee of which the Secretary for Native Affairs is the present Chairman, has been firmly established in the Colony and since its inception in 1927 has progressed steadily. The Inspecting Medical Officer, during his tours of inspection, has done much to organize and establish Child Welfare Committees in the more remote parts of the Colony and has greatly stimulated native interest in the scheme. In practically every village Child Welfare Committees have been established, each of which is responsible to the Child Welfare worker in charge of the district. There are four trained European nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by ten specially trained native nurses. Infant mortality among Fijian children under the age of five years during the years 1932, 1933 and 1934 is as follows:—

	1932.	1933.	1934.
Under one month	90	88	99
Over one month, under one year	236	244	368
Over one year, under five years	140	174	290

The increase in infant death-rate is largely due to an epidemic of whooping cough.

Health and Sanitation.

For the first three quarters of the year the general health of the community was good, but during the last quarter influenza of a mild type was epidemic.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—The total number of cases reported for the whole Colony in 1934 was 399, 150 cases more than the preceding year. At no time did the disease reach epidemic proportions. There were 35 cases in the Suva District, and on bacteriological examination of these, the following results were obtained:—

Flexner	6
Sonne's	5
Shiga	2
Balantidium Coli (isolated in Fiji for the second time)	1
Amoebic	4

The remaining seventeen cases, some of which gave bacteriological negative results, were treated as clinical cases.

Infantile paralysis.—Two cases were notified for the year, one each from Rewa and Nandi.

Typhoid.—Fifty-eight cases occurred in 1934, compared with 196 in 1933. Only four of these cases were reported from the Suva area. The incidence and spread of typhoid has been kept within strict limitations by a system of inoculation with T.A.B. which has been practised during recent years.

Epidemic dropsy.—Nine cases occurred during the year, eight of which were at the Suva Gaol. Improvement in their condition commenced within ten to fourteen days of the substitution of bread for rice.

Diphtheria.—Eighteen cases were notified during the year, eleven of which came from the Suva District.

Leprosy.—The problem of leprosy continues to be very thoroughly dealt with in Fiji. On the island of Makongai there is a most modern and up-to-date leper hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, a Lay Superintendent, and fourteen European and ten Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, and lepers are also received from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands. The cost of the institution is borne by the various participating Administrations proportionately to the number of their patients. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by Nursing Sisters.

Admissions during 1934	89
Repatriation of Indians	8
Conditional discharges	25
Deaths	17
Number of patients at the end of 1934 ...	466

Since 1911 there have been 1,763 admissions, 308 conditional discharges, 54 re-admissions (many of which have been on account of trophic ulceration rather than for reactivation of the disease), and thirteen cases have been re-discharged.

Miscellaneous.

Food control, and dairies.—Twenty-five dairies were registered during the year within the rural district of Suva. These were inspected bi-monthly by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health and were maintained in a satisfactory condition, some minor defects being corrected on request.

Milk.—Six summonses for selling milk below standard resulted in six convictions with fines up to £5.

Tuberculin testing of cattle.—Of 827 cattle in registered dairy herds tuberculin-tested by Government Veterinary Officers only 14 or 1·69 per cent. gave positive reactions. In other herds of 671 cattle 87 or 12·98 per cent. were positive.

Slaughterhouses.—In the Suva and Rural District three slaughterhouses were registered during the year and one application to erect a slaughterhouse was received. All slaughterhouses were visited daily. Of 3,954 carcases inspected, 93 (2·4 per cent.), including 67 bovines (3 per cent.) and six pigs (0·84 per cent.), were condemned as unfit for human consumption, tuberculosis being the cause of rejection; in addition, organs or parts condemned for the same cause comprised, bovine 6 per cent., porchine 9 per cent.

Restaurants and "kava" saloons were inspected in detail quarterly prior to the issue of police permits; in seven instances permits were refused.

Sanitation Campaign.

In May, 1932, the Rockefeller Foundation, in co-operation with the Government of Fiji, commenced an intensive campaign for the installation of latrines of the bore-hole type throughout the Colony. The campaign is still proceeding and is nearing completion. The Government will continue the campaign unassisted by the Rockefeller Foundation after the middle of 1935.

In 1928, experiments were undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation with this type of latrine in the district of Rewa, where some 1,400 bore-holes were put in use among Fijians and Indians. Towards the end of 1930 and during the early months of 1931 the Foundation co-operated with the Central Board of Health and installed 1,815 bore-holes in Suva and the nearby district of Navua. This new type of latrine proved to be satisfactory with both Fijians and Indians. The campaign was continued and over 2,000 bore-holes were installed in 1932, 4,329 in 1933, and 4,030 in 1934.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva the Municipal Council is the Local Authority for the area which it controls. The Medical Officer of Health, who is not a member of the Local Authority, attends its meetings in an advisory capacity. The sanitary duties in the urban area are carried out by the Council's two Sanitary Inspectors under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food inspection and work in connection with infectious diseases is now carried out by a Central Board of Health Inspector.

For sanitary purposes the town of Suva is divided into an inner or business area and an outer or residential area, and effect is gradually being given to the intention that all buildings within the business area shall be constructed of concrete. Within the town boundary there is no marked tendency towards segregation on racial lines, and the Administration has never attempted to bring it about. The type of dwelling varies with the means of the occupants. The labouring classes are usually drawn from the native and Indian communities, and a proportion of them live in tenement dwellings, but many Indians, who obtain their employment in Suva, live in separate houses on settlements surrounding the town area. The most important of such settlements is situated at Samambula. European settlements are springing up at Vatuwanga and Lami.

The re-laying of all the main sewers within the Municipality, which is now nearing completion, is a work of the highest importance. Consideration is at present being given to the question of improving the present method of disposal of sewage.

VI.—PRODUCTION

Sugar.

The sugar industry in Fiji continued to benefit during the year as a result of the Colony being allotted by the Imperial Government a quota, for the financial year 1934-1935, of 44,000 tons of sugar, in respect of the importation of which into the United Kingdom a special preferential rate of duty was allowed. The whole of this quota was allotted to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited—the only sugar company operating in the Colony, which was thus enabled to maintain the local price paid for cane.

Sugar production continues to be the principal industry in the Colony and, though production is very largely in the hands of Indians, there has been a considerable increase in the number of Fijians engaged in cane growing during the past few years. During 1934, Fijians were reported to have earned some £24,000 by sugar cultivation, and their earnings show every sign of increasing.

While the 1934 crop was better than expected, it fell considerably below that of the previous two years, on account of an unusually wet period at the beginning of the year.

Exports of sugar during the year amounted to 103,863 tons, which were shipped to the following destinations:—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	56,468
Canada	46,275
New Zealand and Pacific Islands	1,120
Total	103,863

The value of sugar exported in 1934 was £1,069,049, as against £1,180,782 in 1933. It may be mentioned that the lowest price yet known to the industry was recorded in November, 1934.

Exports for the past five years have been :—

	Tons.
1930	90,979
1931	67,937
1932	131,302
1933	113,836
1934	103,863

The usual activities of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited in the direction of scientific control and research, both in the field and in the factory, have been maintained, and further progress has been made with the introduction and testing of new varieties of cane.

Bananas.

The banana exports from the Colony during the year 1934 amounted to :—

	Cases.
To Australia	9,398
To New Zealand	151,822
Total	161,220

The system of control of exports by quotas continued in operation during the year and it is to this restriction on marketing that reduced exports of bananas is due. Under the quota system as controlled in Fiji, it is however possible to safeguard the interests of the Fijians who have, for many years past, been the principal growers of bananas for export. There is little doubt that, but for the introduction of the quota system, the Fijians would have been driven to a large extent from the trade in which they have been the principal producers for many years.

Average prices paid to growers at packing stations have varied as follows during the past three years :—

	Per Case.	
	s.	*d.*
1932	2	3
1933	2	8
1934	3	0¾

Prices on the New Zealand market showed some appreciation over those for the previous year, and there is no doubt that this is due principally to the measures of restriction agreed on by the supplying territories and the New Zealand Government. The average gross price realized in New Zealand increased from 10s. 10d. per case in 1932 to 13s. 11d. per case in 1933, while the same average was reached in 1934.

Under the Ottawa Agreement, Fiji is permitted to export 40,000 centals of bananas to Australia at a reduced duty of 2s. 6d. per cental. The market was, however, not found to be profitable as charges such as primage and sales tax considerably increased the taxation on shipments to the Commonwealth. As a consequence, during the year exports totalled only 9,398 cases, whereas the total quantity admissible at the reduced tariff charge is approximately 50,000 cases. However, representations made to the Australian authorities during the year resulted in a reduction in inspection fees and the abolition of the sales tax and primage being obtained, the aggregate reduction being 1s. 10d. to 2s. per case.

As a result of this reduction in costs of importing bananas into Australia, a small shipment in December realized good prices, and demand increased; but prospects are not good at present. A trial shipment to Canada was made in December, which showed that carriage to that market offered no particular difficulties; the fruit arrived in good condition and its flavour gave rise to favourable comment. This market offers good prospects provided that only fruit of good quality is used and it is shipped within 36 hours of being cut.

Copra.

Exports of copra during the year amounted to 23,526 tons, compared with 22,597 tons in 1933. The market declined during the year, the opening price of £4 a ton at ports of export in Fiji at the beginning of the year falling at the close of the year to £3 12s. 6d. a ton. Accurate figures of the quantity of copra produced by Fijians are not available, but it is generally accepted that 50 per cent. of the copra production of the Colony is produced from native sources. The European and half-caste coconut planters continued to suffer as a result of the low price of copra. The Special Committee appointed in November, 1933, to consider and report on the best means of assisting the industry, completed its investigations during the year and submitted its report to the Government. As the result of the Committee's recommendations various export taxes on copra, amounting to 2s. 6d. a ton, were remitted. The copra industry also benefited from the continued depreciation of the local currency relative to sterling, £111 (Fiji) being equivalent to £100 (sterling).

The operations of the Coconut Committee were discontinued during the year as a measure of economy. The introductions of parasites of the leaf-mining beetle and of the coconut spathe borer made from Java in 1933 were followed up and indicated that the insects concerned had established themselves in the Colony and were doing useful work.

Individual records of pedigree palms established at Navuso Experimental Station have been maintained, and a wide range of variation has been found in the flowering and fruiting characters of these palms, which indicates abundant scope for selection when they are more mature.

Rice.

The year 1934 marked the turning point of the rice industry in Fiji, as Government notified growers that it would not purchase paddy after the 1933 season and the Government mill would cease operations when existing stocks had been milled and sold. It was considered that the purchase of paddy and the milling of rice by Government had achieved its object by establishing within 12 years a permanent producing and milling industry of such proportions as to render importations of rice unncessary under normal conditions.

Thirty-eight privately-owned power-driven " hullers ", each having a capacity of approximately two tons of cleaned rice per working day of ten hours, have been established in the Colony, and more are expected to be in use by the 1935 season.

Only 291 tons of rice were imported in 1934, and even this was not economically necessary. It is estimated that 10,000 acres were planted to rice during the year, and that about 7,000 tons of rice were produced.

Climatic conditions throughout the year were distinctly favourable. As formerly, almost all of the paddy produced is grown by Indians, but the amount produced by Fijians is steadily increasing, as is also the consumption of rice by that race. Small stocks of seed of selected high-yielding strains of rice were maintained by the Department of Agriculture for distribution to applicants, the number of whom is increasing.

Cotton.

Owing to the depressed state of the world's market only 220 acres were planted in 1934. Weather conditions also were most unsatisfactory as regards this crop, since lack of rain at planting time seriously delayed the planting.

The whole of the seed-cotton purchased in 1934 was procured from only 98 growers. The quantity produced was 15,768 lb. of lint, of which 11,800 lb. was Sea Island types, the balance being selected hybrid strains possessing Sakel characteristics.

Seven bales of Fiji No. 172 (New Guinea cross Sea Island backcross) were sent to England for spinning tests made at the Peel Mills, and the strength at 80s. twist was found to be 3·1 lb. or 3·2 lb. stronger than the control type and only 1 lb. weaker than the Sakel control used in the previous year. This indicates that a good type of cotton suitable to local conditions has been produced, but the future of the industry depends very largely on the sugar industry. Should the profits on cane growing diminish, then cotton would probably become an important crop, and areas planted could readily be increased. Experimental work connected with this crop is being continued with a view to improving lint and yielding characters.

Citrus.

Citrus exports were considerably less in 1934 than in 1933, and during the year only 1,102 cases of oranges and 2,420 cases of mandarines were shipped to New Zealand. The season only yielded a poor crop, but better harvesting and stricter supervision of transport to the packing sheds were exercised. As a result, enhanced prices were realized and there were no rejections at Auckland on account of fruit fly; at the same time, the quality of the fruit on arrival gained favourable comment.

Preparation of the fruit for market, consisting of colouring, sizing, grading, wrapping, and packing, was carried out by the Department of Agriculture at the expense of the shippers.

Although some few acres of citrus groves on commercial lines are established, practically all of the fruit exported has been obtained from trees growing haphazardly about native villages. Every effort is being made by the Department of Agriculture to encourage planting of groves properly laid out with budded stocks of tried and selected varieties. As these new groves come into bearing control and progress of the industry will become increasingly easier.

Subsidiary Crops.

Mauritius bean (Stizolobium atterimum).—Formerly large quantities of this bean were produced and exported to Queensland for use as a green manure crop. This trade has declined of late, owing to the use by Queensland farmers of other leguminous plants for the purpose.

Prior to shipment 1,600 cwt. valued at £2,666 were sampled and tested for germination and freedom from foreign matter.

Rice bean (Phaseolus calcaratus) and *cow pea (Vigna catiang).*—These are used fairly extensively, as well as Mauritius bean, as green manure crops, in the sugar districts in Fiji.

Kumalas (Sweet potatoes).—During the year 1,666 sacks were exported to New Zealand. Large quantities of this vegetable are grown and it forms one of the main articles of native diet during the season. The kumulas for export are grown mainly by Chinese. Rigid inspection prior to export has greatly improved the quality and has reduced rejections for weevil infection in New Zealand, to a minimum.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, etc.—These products are exported to New Zealand in small quantities, inspecting, grading, and packing being carried out under the direct supervision of the Department of Agriculture. Quality is improving and there should be a larger market for these products when conditions improve in the Dominion. Chinese are the main producers, and exports in 1934 amounted to 193 cases of tomatoes to Australia and 604 cases of cucumbers to New Zealand. There were also 2,684 melons and 78 pumpkins exported.

Ginger.—Ginger of excellent quality is grown and exported in the green state in small quantities.

Coconuts.—Owing to low price of copra, some attention was given to the market for whole husked coconuts, of which 3,000 sacks were exported during the year.

A small quantity of coconut meal is manufactured locally as a by-product of the soap works and is used as a stock food.

Granadillas, pawpaws, and avocado pears.—These and allied fruits attain to perfection in the Colony. During 1934, exports of granadillas amounted to 192 cases and pawpaws to 372 cases.

Maize.—During the last five years the area under maize has decreased considerably. Formerly, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, alone purchased 50,000 to 60,000 bushels per annum but their consumption now is much reduced. This is due in part to the increased use of tractors, but mainly to the change from plantation methods of production of cane to production by individual tenant farmers. The crop grows very well on alluvial flats and 50-60 bushels per acre are not uncommon. Storage of the grain has been difficult unless treated by a mechanical drier and stored in sealed tanks. Export of maize in the past has not proved profitable. Further consideration is being given to the possibility of manufacturing maize flour and encouraging its use among the Indian population so as to reduce the large quantity of wheaten flour and sharps imported.

Tobacco.—This appears to do well in all parts of the Colony. Many types are grown but there is a preponderance of poor varieties suitable only for the manufacture of " trade " twist which suits the natives' taste. Much experimental work remains to be done in selecting a few good varieties to displace the large number of mixed types at present being cultivated. Selection work is proceeding and selected samples have been sent to London for report and valuation.

Kava (Piper methysticum).—Although no figures are available, large quantities of the dried root of this plant are produced. It forms a remunerative crop to many Indians, Chinese and Fijians near Suva. The root when ground is mascerated with water to form the native " grog " or Yangona (kava) common to most Pacific Islands.

Potatoes.—During the last few years increasing quantities of potatoes have been grown along the Singatoka Valley. These are of excellent quality, but it has not been possible to keep " seed " from harvest to next planting, and new " seed " has to be imported each year at considerable cost.

Native food-stuffs.—Taro, cassava, yams, breadfruit, kumulas, " vundi " or plantain, bananas, and coconuts, in one form or another and according to season, form the basis of the vegetable diet of the native Fijians. These goods are produced in considerable quantities in gardens adjacent to villages. Production was sufficient for the needs of the people during the year under review.

Within the last few years Chinese have gone into the production of these vegetables for sale to natives and others in and around townships.

Indian food-stuffs.—Rice, beans, peas, lentils, maize, bringall, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, tumeric, groundnuts, mango, guava, melons, potatoes, eschalots, as well as many other foodstuffs of lesser importance, are all grown in Fiji by the Indians. Large quantities are however imported, more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage the Indians to grow and prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian population is tending to include more and more of the Fijians' foodstuffs in their diet; similarly the Fijian is developing a taste for Indian curry foods and rice.

European vegetables, i.e., cabbage, beans, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins, marrows. Quite a wide range of so-called European vegetables grow well in all parts of the Colony, but probably a great deal more care is required to raise them successfully than would be the case in more temperate zones. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Live Stock.

Fiji being largely an agricultural Colony live stock plays an important role in its economic life. Horses and bullocks perform for the farming community practically the whole of the traction required; the milch cow produces milk, butter and ghee for the majority of the inhabitants; and beef cattle, goats, pigs, and poultry supply the greatest part of the meat and egg supply for the Colony.

The equine population of the Colony is now estimated at over 14,000, the majority being used for farming pursuits. The number of cattle is estimated at close on 70,000. Goats, of which there are approximately 20,000, are used amongst the Indian community as a source of meat supply. The sheep-breeding industry has not been successfully established locally, and most of the mutton is imported either on the hoof or frozen. The number of live sheep imported during the year was 1,288.

Swine.—Practically all the pork for the local meat trade is now supplied locally. A large piggery is conducted by the Fiji Pastoral Company as an adjunct to their dairying industry, while many smaller dairymen have also established smaller piggeries. In the cane-growing districts, piggeries are run in conjunction with the Colonial Sugar Refining Companies' butcheries.

Bacon curing has not yet been attempted in the Colony, although there is a considerable bacon and ham consumption. The number of live pigs imported during the year was 110, of which 15 were for breeding purposes.

Dairying.

The protection by import duty of 4d. a lb. on Empire butter and 8d. a lb. on foreign butter remained in operation during 1934. The imposition of an increased duty on edible ghee substitutes has lead to an increased prosperity in the dairying industry. Prior to 1934 a considerable portion of the butter manufactured was exported. During 1934, a large portion of the butter fat produced was made into ghee and sold locally.

The following figures relate to butter manufactured by the Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company of Fiji and the Fiji Pastoral Company, Limited, the two major dairying companies operating in the Colony.

Year.	*Butter manufactured.* lb.	*Sold locally.* lb.	*Exported.* lb.	*Converted into ghee.* lb.
1930	440,277	339,141	101,136	—
1931	490,055	309,511	180,544	—
1932	543,815	272,663	271,152	—
1933	544,375	388,631	205,744	17,920
1934	560,649	268,383	146,384	145,882

Ghee.—There are also large quantities of ghee, more or less pure, as well as that admittedly adulterated (mainly with coconut oil), manufactured by the Indians and disposed of among themselves.

Milk for human consumption.—This constitutes no small portion of the dairying industry. At the various sugar mill centres dairies are owned and operated by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, to provide cheap, reasonably pure milk. At other country centres private dairies or individuals supply the needs of the community. Suva and its environs are well cared for as to milk supply and the distribution thereof.

A compulsory tuberculin test is applied to all registered dairy herds in the Suva district, and a few registered herds outside this area are voluntarily subjected to the test. Regular visits of inspection are made by Veterinary Officers and Sanitary Inspectors to registered dairies.

One of the larger dairy companies operating in the vicinity of Suva continued the distribution of pasteurized milk in sealed bottles. This modern hygienic method of milk handling has many desirable features, especially in a tropical town such as Suva.

Poultry.

Fowls and ducks are found in all parts of the Colony and turkeys do well in certain parts. The best strains of pure-bred Orpington, Leghorn, Rhode Island Reds and Indian Game have been imported from time to time and maintained. There are a number of commercial poultry farms, but a fair portion of the local supply comes from small Indian farmers whose stock is mostly of the " barnyard " type. The price of eggs ranged from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. per dozen wholesale.

Table birds are not bred as such, but a large number of fowls and ducks, and a limited number of turkeys, are disposed of for consumption. Prices for live birds are :—fowls 3s. 6d. to 5s. and ducks 5s. to 6s. each.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This phase of agricultural education is controlled by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native, and Indian Departments and a representative of the Methodist Mission. For the purpose of this description it may be divided into two main spheres, namely primary instruction and adult instruction.

Primary Instruction.

The work under this heading may be briefly described as the operation of the agricultural bias which it is intended to give to certain portions of the curriculum of existing schools. This training is more or less confined to nature study lessons and work in school gardens. Its widespread application is handicapped by want of sufficient qualified instructors, but some centres have made excellent progress. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and the Teachers' Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural Colleges at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and the training of students at the Government Experimental Stations goes further still. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as Native Field Instructors of the Agricultural Department for work mainly amongst the adult population.

Adult Instruction.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian agricultural community is far ahead of the Fijian in modern agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugar-cane and since the adoption of the tenant farmer system by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, the individual comes under the direct supervision of the trained officers of that Company.

In these circumstances the Government's restricted financial resources have been directed towards assisting the more backward Fijian to a comparative equality with the Indian in agricultural practice.

Mining.

A new Mining Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council on 2nd July, 1934, and Regulations under the Ordinance were made by the Governor in Council on 4th July. The Mining Board, constituted under the provisions of the Ordinance, was appointed on 13th September, and the Tavua and Yanawai Mining Areas were gazetted on 4th October.

The discovery of gold-bearing ore in the Tavua district attracted the attention of an Australian syndicate headed by Mr. E. G. Theodore. It acquired options over certain prospecting licences in the immediate vicinity of the original discovery, and instituted intensive prospecting operations by modern methods and with an experienced staff. In October, Mr. Theodore applied for a mining lease of 100 acres with attendant special site and water-right licences, and commenced the erection of a small but modern milling and treatment plant. Tavua Gold Options, Limited, an Australian Company, commenced prospecting operations towards the end of the year on prospecting licence areas adjacent to those acquired by Mr. Theodore and his associates.

Mount Kasi Mines, Limited, temporarily ceased mining operations at Yanawai in October, and commenced the installation of a larger and more efficient treatment plant.

At the October Session the Legislative Council allowed refunds of duty paid or to be paid by Mr. Theodore and Mount Kasi Mines, Limited, on imported machinery to the value of £15,000 each, upon certain conditions as to repayment of the duty so refunded before the payment of any dividend to shareholders.

Prospecting work was continued by local prospectors in other districts but no discovery of note was reported.

The following statement shows the gold produced in the Yanawai and Tavua Mining Areas since the commencement of mining operations :—

Year.	*Yanawai.*	*Tavua.*	*Total.*
1932	311·1 oz.	nil	311·1 oz.
1933	1,844·2 ,,	nil	1,844·2 ,,
1934	796·7 ,,	134·7 oz.	931·4 ,,
Totals ...	2,952·0 ,,	134·7 ,,	3,086·7 ,,

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Colony for the year 1934, exclusive of transhipments, amounted to £2,451,659, this figure being made up of imports valued at £995,204 and exports valued at £1,456,455. As compared with the previous year, the total trade showed a decrease of £343,136. Imports showed a drop of £74,062 and exports £269,074. It should be noted that as from the 1st January, 1934, the import statistics show the country of origin and not the country of consignment as in previous years, and it is on this account that difficulties will arise when making comparisons with previous years.

The principal increases and decreases in the value of articles imported during 1934 as compared with 1933 are as follows :—

Increases.—Boots and shoes, £1,903 ; coal, £2,262 ; cordage and rope, £446 ; fruit and vegetables, fresh, £956 ; hardware, £9,944 ; iron and mild steel, £806 ; leatherwear, £1,304 ; machinery, £8,565 ; motor vehicles, £13,015 ; soap, £2,247 ; tyres and tubes, £452.

Decreases.—Bags and sacks, £12,300 ; beer, £414 ; cement, £888 ; drapery, £29,681 ; fancy goods, £3,832 ; fish, £6,503 ; flour, sharps and pollard, £7,799 ; ghee, £3,508 ; matches, £963 ; meats, £2,818 ; milk, £796 ; oils, edible, £2,320 ; oils, other, £21,052 ; paints, £385 ; tobacco, £765.

The total value of exports, amounting to £1,456,455, was made up of exports, the products of the Colony, valued at £1,341,678 and re-exports £114,777. As compared with 1933, the products of the Colony were £190,483 less in value and re-exports £78,591 less.

Although 923 tons more copra were exported in 1934, the value decreased from £195,788 in 1933 to £127,941 in 1934, a decrease of £67,847 due to the low prices ruling for this particular product in the world's markets for which the bedrock price was paid during the year. The sugar exported in 1934 was 9,974 tons less in quantity and £111,733 less in value than that exported in 1933.

Values of imports, exports, total trade, and visible trade balance for each of the past five years are set out in the following table :—

Year ended 31st Dec.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1930 ...	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710	265,342
1931 ...	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701	70,673
1932 ...	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	841,618
1933 ...	1,069,266	1,725,529	2,794,795	656,263
1934 ...	995,204	1,456,455	2,451,659	461,251

In 1934, the total trade of the Colony was divided between the different countries as follows :—

Country.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of total trade.*
	£	£	£	
United Kingdom	362,763	674,395	1,037,158	42·32
Australia	261,108	74,490	335,598	13·69
Canada	45,309	470,229	515,538	21·03
India	63,588	302	63,890	2·61
New Zealand	34,343	119,941	154,284	6·29
Dutch East Indies	24,643	4,968	29,611	1·21
Japan	29,764	2,964	32,728	1·33
United States of America ...	86,285	10,800	97,085	3·98
Other British Possessions ...	23,587	13,533	37,120	1·51
Other Foreign Countries ...	40,010	81,985	121,995	4·96
	971,400	1,453,607	2,425,007	98·93
Ships' Stores	—	2,848	2,848	·12
Parcels Post	23,804	—	23,804	·95
Totals ... £	995,204	1,456,455	2,451,659	100·00

The following table shows how the trade was distributed during the past two years :—

Country.	*Percentage of imports.*		*Percentage of exports.*		*Percentage of total trade.*	
	1933.	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
United Kingdom ...	34·24	36·45	49·22	46·33	43·49	42·32
Other British Possessions.	52·58	43·00	41·57	46·58	45·79	45·13
Foreign Countries...	11·16	18·16	9·04	6·90	9·85	11·48
Parcels Post ...	2·02	2·39	—	—	·77	·95
Ships' Stores ...	—	—	·17	·19	·10	·12
Total ...	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Imports.

The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows :—

Country.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	373,694	258,171	250,748	366,151	362,763
Australia	449,845	372,284	317,046	379,886	261,108
Canada	60,076	40,134	25,675	38,175	45,309
India	43,239	32,622	33,944	39,242	63,588
New Zealand	102,339	81,470	100,255	88,174	34,343
Japan	17,135	23,909	29,814	39,269	29,764
Dutch East Indies ...	21,889	20,115	22,633	18,794	24,643
United States	86,224	51,789	25,937	42,431	86,285

The proportion of the total import trade done with these countries during the same period was as follows :—

Country.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	30·65	27·77	29·25	34·24	36·45
Australia	36·90	40·05	36·98	35·53	26·24
Canada	4·94	4·32	3·00	3·57	4·55
India	3·55	3·51	3·96	3·67	6·39
New Zealand	8·39	8·76	11·69	8·25	3·45
Japan	1·45	2·57	3·48	3·67	2·99
Dutch East Indies ...	1·80	2·16	2·64	1·76	2·48
United States	7·06	5·57	3·03	3·97	8·67

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows :—

FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

	1933.		*1934.*	
Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Boots and shoes...	—	2,024	—	1,394
Cement and lime	45,924 cwt.	5,274	45,180 cwt.	4,584
Cinematograph films.	—	—	434,189 ft.	4,896
Drapery	—	87,614	—	72,602
Drugs	—	6,729	—	7,240
Hardware ...	—	32,158	—	51,483
Iron, black, and steel, mild.	5,958 cwt.	3,478	7, 730 cwt.	4,415
Iron, galvanized...	14,393 cwt.	11,343	14,163 cwt.	11,190
Machinery ...	—	20,437	—	23,744
Manures	2,886 tons	19,914	4,737 tons	22,418
Matches, wood ...	51,350 gross	7,410	31,600 gross	5,806
Motor vehicles ...	77	10,547	46	6,002
Oils	54,330 gal.	5,775	60,523 gal.	6,225
Paints	137 tons	6,129	114 tons	5,378
Salt	12,600 cwt.	2,295	12,435 cwt.	2,062
Spirits	12,456 gal.	14,152	15,131 gal.	16,398
Stationery ...	—	3,981	—	4,536
Tobacco	18,061 lb.	6,429	15,442 lb.	6,453
Toys and fancy goods.	—	11,960	—	5,973
Other articles ...	—	108,502	—	99,964
TOTAL ...		£366,151		£362,763

FROM AUSTRALIA.

Article.	*1933.*		*1934.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Bags and sacks ...	113,946 doz.	35,936	—	—
Beer	40,995 gal.	7,563	41,815 gal.	6,819
Biscuits, fancy ...	117,527 lb.	5,003	109,629 lb.	4,490
Confectionery ...	76,024 lb.	3,489	82,123 lb.	3,378
Coal	20,523 tons	14,817	26,138 tons	17,855
Cordage and rope	1,459 cwt.	3,861	1,023 cwt.	2,757
Drapery	—	4,706	—	1,882
Drugs	—	5,312	—	3,926
Flour, sharps and pollard.	15,493,617 lb.	54,436	15,100,709 lb.	46,579
Fruits and vegetables, fresh.	26,204 cwt.	6,809	25,687 cwt.	7,746
Grease	2,594 cwt.	2,065	2,019 cwt.	1,157
Hardware ...	—	31,275	—	21,325
Machinery ...	—	35,342	—	34,097
Meats	170,063 lb.	3,945	109,771 lb.	2,017
Oils	269,296 gal.	14,721	648 gal.	105
Paints	58 tons	3,135	65 tons	3,362
Photographs and films	1,480,484 ft.	12,878	58,243 ft.	597
Rice	3,713 cwt.	1,958	229 cwt.	143
Spirits	3,190 gal.	3,131	598 gal.	481
*Tea	125,756 lb.	7,792	—	—
Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars.	78,211 lb.	23,461	75,536 lb.	22,537
Other articles ...	—	98,251	—	79,855
TOTAL ...		£379,886		£261,108

FROM CANADA.

Fish	694,516 lb.	13,177	296,900 lb.	6,172
Motor Vehicles ...	—	—	—	17,113
Timber	2,203,636 sup. ft.	11,822	2,230,544 sup. ft.	10,793
Tyres and tubes...	—	4,204	—	4,188
Other articles ...	—	8,972	—	7,043
TOTAL ...		£38,175		£45,309

FROM INDIA.

Bags and sacks ...	27,208 doz.	7,062	119,986 doz.	32,639
Dhall	11,632 cwt.	6,529	14,029 cwt.	7,202
Drapery	—	4,189	—	2,962
Ghee and ghee substitutes.	328,603 lb.	6,213	182,389 lb.	2,829
Oil, mustard ...	57,412 gal.	7,591	45,125 gal.	5,362
Other articles ...	—	7,658	—	12,594
TOTAL ...		£39,242		£63,588

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* See Note on p. 30.

FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Article.	1933.		1934.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Bacon and hams	62,503 lb.	2,694	64,765 lb.	3,004
Bags and sacks ...	9,924 doz.	2,280	—	—
Drapery	—	3,708	—	1,846
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	19,195 cwt.	5,073	17,809 cwt.	4,891
Grease and tallow	3,040 cwt.	2,781	1,424 cwt.	1,184
Manure	24,986 cwt.	4,619	991 cwt.	318
Meat	245,126 lb.	5,817	209,605 lb.	4,964
Photographs and films.	2,325,283 ft.	21,935	9,200 ft.	115
Soap, plain ...	224,267 lb.	1,898	352,954 lb.	2,920
Sugar	330,476 lb.	2,198	421,537 lb.	2,410
*Tea	64,892 lb.	5,934	—	—
Other articles ...	—	29,237	—	12,691
TOTAL ...		£88,174		£34,343

FROM JAPAN.

Article.	1933. Quantity.	1933. Value.	1934. Quantity.	1934. Value.
Drapery	—	34,535	—	24,487
Other articles ...	—	4,734	—	5,277
TOTAL ...		£39,269		£29,764

FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES.

Article.	1933. Quantity.	1933. Value.	1934. Quantity.	1934. Value.
Oil, crude ...	247,390 gal.	2,608	788,385 gal.	4,102
Kerosene ...	164,355 gal.	5,747	123,848 gal.	3,891
Motor fuel ...	268,391 gal.	10,439	422,594 gal.	16,646
Other articles ...	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ...		£18,794		£24,643

	Country of Origin.	*lb.*	£
*Tea imports for 1934 :—	Ceylon	131,972	12,107
	Java	55,608	2,618
	India	26,796	1,630
	China	8,290	375

FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Article.	*1933.* *Quantity.*	*1933.* *Value.*	*1934.* *Quantity.*	*1934.* *Value.*
		£		£
Cinematograph films.	—	—	3,772,163 ft.	36,466
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	1,487 cwt.	1,054	1,111 cwt.	1,231
Hardware ...	—	3,975	—	6,672
Oil, kerosene ...	219,106 gal.	9,176	154,473 gal.	5,450
Motor fuel ...	724,061 gal.	16,373	536,251 gal.	7,553
Other	157,834 gal.	2,807	28,898 gal.	3,420
Machinery, agricultural.	—	1,732	—	1,594
Other articles ...	—	7,314	—	18,541
Motor Vehicles ...	—	—	—	5,358
TOTAL ...		£42,431		£86,285

It should be noted for purposes of comparison that the import figures for 1934 are based on the country of origin of the article and not on the country of consignment as in previous years. For instance, the United Kingdom, for the first time in years, takes priority over Australia in being the largest exporter to Fiji, mainly through many items which, though purchased from Australia, are not of Australian origin, while New Zealand figures show a decrease of 62 per cent. as compared with 1933 for the same reason, the main items being sacks, drapery, films, and tea, which are still being imported from New Zealand but are not of New Zealand origin.

Food-stuffs, produce, and coal are still the main items imported from New Zealand and Australia, whilst all classes of manufactured articles are mainly the imports from the United Kingdom.

The imports of Canadian goods have increased during the year, the chief items being fish, timber, and tyres and tubes.

Imports from India have increased by 62 per cent., due principally to such items as bags and sacks being credited to that country instead of to Australia as in previous years.

Owing to the institution of the quota system for controlling cotton and artificial silk piece-goods imported from foreign countries, imports of drapery from Japan have considerably decreased.

Imports from the United States of America show a marked increase on account of cinematograph films which were formerly credited to New Zealand and Australia.

Exports.

The exports of the principal products of the Colony for the past five years were as follows :—

Article.		*1930.*		*1931.*		*1932*		*1933.*		*1934.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... tons	90,979	853,833	67,937	624,310	131,302	1,289,239	113,836	1,180,782	103,863	1,069,049
Copra ...	... tons	23,882	369,524	16,917	177,786	15,076	170,240	22,597	195,788	23,520	127,941
Molasses ...	... tons	12,337	12,337	9,019	9,019	9,448	9,448	12,937	12,937	16,828	16,828
Bananas ...	bunches	169,044	57,178	194,875	57,368	346,968	67,237	326,422	69,243	324,494	67,845
Biscuits ...	... lb.	338,892	8,456	149,630	3,325	133,266	3,135	84,654	1,919	53,749	1,088
Butter ...	... cwt.	903	6,496	1,612	7,519	2,421	11,299	1,837	7,564	1,307	4,016
Cotton ...	... lb.	127,077	6,727	78,932	1,146	101,997	5,100	34,870	2,300	2,513	84
Vegetables ...	... cwt.	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228	1,961	940
Pines, canned	... lb.	306,913	6,593	297,301	5,961	621,036	8,095	380,711	5,582	—	3,808
Pines, fresh	... cases	7,633	2,296	5,607	1,510	1,776	668	2,684	1,007	2,171	816
Trocas shell	... tons	193	11,209	183	7,371	266	12,125	365	19,945	319	20,733

The figures as regards the quantity and value of bananas exported during the year compare favourably with those of the previous year. Most of the bananas exported went to New Zealand, Australia taking £6,000 less in value than the previous year.

Canada and the United Kingdom again took the greater portion of the sugar exported, while most of the copra was absorbed by the United Kingdom and Europe. The average price of copra fell from £8 10s. 0d. per ton in 1933 to £5 10s. 0d. in 1934.

The export figures for trocas shell show a slight decrease in quantity though an increase in value. The bulk of the shell was exported to European countries and a small portion to Australia and Japan.

During the year 1,033 ounces of gold, valued at £7,590, were exported. The decrease in the amount exported was the result of the installation by one of the mining companies of larger plant, which necessitated the temporary suspension of its mining activities.

The following table shows quantity and value of twelve of the minor products of the Colony exported during the last five years :—

Article.		*1930.*		*1931.*		*1932.*		*1933.*		*1934.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Beans, Mauritius..	cwt.	1,288	1,290	968	1,212	2,590	3,237	1,201	1,855	1,595	2,660
Bêche-de-mer ...	cwt.	2,672	13,886	2,864	16,045	2,074	8.801	255	1,348	272	1,408
Coconuts	No.	298,886	895	300,860	906	330,930	994	251,330	754	300,040	807
*Fruits, fresh, other than bananas or pines.		—	341	—	1,319	—	1,116	—	3,663	—	2,010
Gold bullion ...	oz.	—	—	—	—	305	2,053	2,079	13,500	1,033	7,590
Gum	cwt.	2,875	4,025	1,025	1,092	3,074	3,103	2,618	3,220	3,936	4,364
Oil, coconut ...	tons.	69	2,451	61	1,631	18	410	50	1,129	65	1,352
Shell, pearl ...	lb.	1,120	15	24,304	216	21,504	193	12,824	128	7,817	80
„ turtle ...	lb.	1,196	1,729	1,881	1,594	1,400	879	1,687	1,041	2,788	1,870
Soap, plain ...	cwt.	498	694	2,406	3,456	3,141	4,332	3,084	4,388	2,632	3,244
†Vegetables, fresh	cwt.	8,568	5,459	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228	1,961	940
Hides	No.	5,856	4,216	4,208	2,283	3,473	1,724	3,857	1,318	4,546	1,917

* In 1934 included the following:—

			£
Mandarines ...	2,420 cases	valued at	1,271
Oranges	1,102 „	„	430
Melons	2,684 fruits	„	168
Other		„	141
		Total ...	£2,010

† In 1934 included the following:—

			£
Tomatoes	34 cwt.	valued at	51
Kumalas (sweet potatoes)	1,675 cwt.	„	659
Cucumbers	120 cwt.	„	180
Other		„	50
		Total ...	£940

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

No change has been made during the year in the conditions governing the employment of labourers under contract of service. In consequence of the continued low price of copra the wages of labourers on coconut plantations remained at between £9 and £10 per annum. Agricultural labourers may be employed under contracts for a period not exceeding twelve months. Every contract for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent if the contract appears unreasonable or inequitable. The hours of labour are nine a day, from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and returning them to their villages is borne by the employer. Adequate safeguards are provided by law for the proper housing and treatment of labourers, and employers are required to provide medical care in cases of sickness.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands he is capable of supporting himself and his family from the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians do support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. The men are employed chiefly in the loading and unloading of cargo vessels, and many of them return to their villages after the work of each ship is completed. A large number of these labourers are drawn from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses, and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. There is, however, nothing to prevent them from returning to their villages and resuming their place in the native social system if they so desire.

The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed, and they are in all cases a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew. This type of work is popular with the Fijians, and the wages they earn are sufficient for the support of themselves and their dependants.

During 1933 and 1934, Fijians found employment on road work. The collection from the Fijians, with the exception perhaps of certain specified areas, of their rates and taxes is a matter of some considerable difficulty in these times of general economic depression. Next year (1935) will see a further development in the road policy, and it is hoped that a considerable number of Fijians will obtain employment on this road work largely as a means of finding their taxes.

The wages paid for the various classes of labour are a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but in all contracts of service exceeding one month the District Commissioner may decline to register the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. Statistics concerning the current rate of wages are given elsewhere.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

There was no marked alteration in labour conditions or in the rate of wages, which tended to remain at the levels of 2s. 6d. per day in Suva and 2s. per day elsewhere. Employment is to a large extent seasonal, particularly in the sugar districts where the maximum opportunities are afforded during the months when the mills are operating, but there is very little hardship during other periods because the majority of Indian labourers, having smallholdings of their own, are not entirely dependent for their livelihood on their wage earnings.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total average number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was 1,193. Of these, 785 were employed in Suva District and 408 in the various country districts.

Approximately three-quarters of these workmen were engaged on road work, and, as has been the case in the past, Indians predominated on maintenance work, whereas the bulk of the labour employed on new construction work was Fijian.

Wages for unskilled labour ranged from 2s. per day in some of the country districts to 2s. 6d. per day in Suva.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. a day according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths, and fitters. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above, and the time is not far distant when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen :—

Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day depending on the degree of skill.

Boat-builders 8s. to 20s. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boat sheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.), up to 20s. a day. Apprentices (usually European and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 12s. 6d. a week.

Painters (usually Indians) 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 10s. to 18s. a day. The average wage is £4 10s. a week.

Road overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. a month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department, and the conditions under which the labourers work, are practically identical with those obtaining outside the Department. The hours of work are 8 a day or 48 a week, and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose employees work 9 hours a day or 54 hours a week.

There are no records kept by the Public Works Department of the cost of living of the different classes of labourers employed. In any case, there is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories, each with a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £20 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £5 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general, cook and house-boy, and cook, house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl.

Cooks earn £5 to £6 per month and food, others, £2 to £4 per month and food.

Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are cheaper but less efficient. White servants are very rarely employed, except as children's nurses.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children, or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

In Suva, a single man could live, though with little margin for emergencies, on £200 a year. In country districts, if quarters were provided, he could live on slightly less.

European artisans tend to be employed only on fairly responsible work, and are usually men who keep up a fairly high standard of living. Since they are unlikely to have any privileges in the shape of free housing, it is unlikely that a married man could manage on less than £250 to £300 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use.

Butter	1s. 6d. per lb.
Bread	3d. per lb.
Milk	6d. per quart.
Cheese	1s. 2d. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 1d. per lb.
Pork	1s. 2d. per lb.
Rice	3d. per lb.
Coffee	1s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Tea	2s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Sugar, white	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown	2d. per lb.
Salt	1½d. per lb.
Eggs	2s. 0d. to 3s. 6d. per doz.
Bacon	1s. 8d. per lb.
Preserved meats	1s. 1d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Flour	2½d. per lb.
Potatoes	14s. per cwt.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows:—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free ...	£2 2 0 a year.
Secondary	£6 0 0 a year ...	£7 10 0 a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva grammar schools.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and social clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s. and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis, golf, and cricket clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s., and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £4 4s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows :—

New Zealand	£12 to £25.
Australia	£25 to £50.
England	£87 10s. to £159 10s.

A special cabin-class return passage to England is quoted at £119 16s.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost-of-living of Fijian and Indian labourers, of whom only a small number are dependent on their wages. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to grow and husk their own rice. In these ways they materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are landowners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages, as they can return and live on their own lands whenever they so desire. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced food-stuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

Native education owes its origin to missionary enterprise, which commenced with the arrival of the Methodist Mission in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870, and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889.

On their own initiative the early Methodist missionaries established schools throughout the Colony, reduced the language to writing, produced a Fijian-English dictionary, and printed a translation of the New Testament. Primary education is still largely under the influence of the various Missions.

An important step forward in the educational policy of the Colony took place in 1916, when an Education Bill was passed creating a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926, an Education Commission was appointed to inquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No. 1 of 1929 substituted. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

The value of practical education was recognized by making eligibility for registration and for grants-in-aid dependent on satisfactory instruction being given in agriculture or manual work for boys and domestic crafts for girls.

Returns in respect of the year 1934 were submitted by 282 schools. The number on the roll was 19,873, and the average attendance approximately 80 per cent.

European Education.

There are thirteen schools which enrol Europeans: three are maintained wholly by Government, five by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company at the sugar centres, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, and two by local committees. Primary education is given in all these schools, while in addition secondary tuition is available in Suva at the grammar schools, St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Felix College, pupils being prepared for the New Zealand Public Service, and the Cambridge Local Examinations. Manual instruction for boys and cookery for girls are included in the curriculum. At the Convent and the Girls' Grammar School an alternative commercial course may be taken which includes book-keeping, shorthand, and commercial practice. In 1934, St. Joseph's Convent presented nine candidates, and St. Felix College one candidate, for the Cambridge Local Examination. Eight candidates from St. Joseph's Convent passed. The Girls' Grammar School presented three candidates for the New Zealand Intermediate Examination, all of whom passed.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes which are organized to enable a pupil taking the course to pass into an appropriate class in one of the grammar schools without loss of time. These classes are conducted by a former head mistress of the Girls' Grammar School, and are of great value to children in outlying country districts. Fifty-six pupils were enrolled during the year.

Under a scheme of co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji, the grammar schools in Suva and Levuka Public School are staffed by trained, certificated New Zealand teachers. The syllabus of instruction used is very similar to that used in New Zealand schools.

Three grades of European scholarships, tenable for three years, may be awarded by the Board of Education on the results of competitive examinations. The local junior scholarships provide for free tuition at one of the Suva European schools, and a monetary grant of £20 a year to country children under the age of 12 years. The local senior scholarships, one for girls and one for boys under 14 years of age, provide free tuition in the secondary departments and a grant of £5 or £20, according to whether the scholar is or is not resident in Suva. The Fiji scholarship, of an annual value of £120 and tenable for three years at an approved university or training institute in one of the neighbouring Dominions, is awarded on the results of the entrance examination of the University of New Zealand. For financial reasons no Fiji scholarship was awarded during 1934.

Half of the net cost of the three Government schools for Europeans is met from general revenue and half from a special education rate levied in the Municipalities of Suva and Levuka in which the schools are situated. The children of parents occupying houses on which education rate is paid are exempt from the payment of school fees in the primary departments, but pay a fee of £6 a year in the secondary departments. The fees for children of non-residents are £2 2s. and £7 10s. a year in the primary and secondary departments respectively. All fees are reduced by one-third when two or more members of a family attend school.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for girls and one for boys. The boarding fee is £50 a year with varying reductions for two, three, or more members of the same family. There are also hostels attached to St. Felix College and St. Joseph's Convent. In Levuka, a hostel is maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission.

The children on the roll of these European schools during the year numbered 443 girls and 484 boys, the net cost to the Government being £4,926 8s. 10d.

There is in Suva a private kindergarten school for pupils under six years of age.

Fijian Education.

The population of Fiji, estimated at 197,449, is composed mainly of Fijians and Indians. Each race has its own schools. Village vernacular schools for Fijians have long been established by the various Missions and practically all the Fijians can read and write the vernacular. Many of these one-teacher schools are being grouped into district schools under the control of District Commissioners, and are staffed with trained, certificated native teachers as they become available. The standard of instruction given is not high, but it is improving. In 1934, 113 Fijian and Rotuman primary schools received grants-in-aid. The enrolment was 3,783 girls and 4,880 boys, with an average attendance of 84 per cent. The net cost to the Government of Fijian education in 1934 was £17,339 5s. 1d.

There are six Government provincial schools in which a primary course is given. All these schools are residential. Every effort is made to encourage the practise of Fijian customs and ceremonies, and at least nine hours a week are devoted to instruction in practical agriculture and wood-work. The food gardens of each of these schools cover areas varying from ten to fifteen acres. One school is actively engaged in sugar-cane cultivation, another is developing a dairy herd, and a third has a banana project. The Fijians contribute £4,350 (approximately half the total cost) towards the maintenance of these six schools. Candidates for admission are selected by the local village chiefs, and places are allocated to the various Provinces in proportion to their monetary contributions.

Queen Victoria Memorial School is a residential school for Fijians situated five miles from Suva. It is maintained by Government funds. The fees are £6 a year. The course provided is an elementary one in which is included agriculture, animal husbandry, and wood-work. Twenty-two acres of crops are in cultivation and the school maintains a dairy herd of 24 cows. The roll in 1934 was 88. Pupils are prepared for admission to the Government Service, the Teachers' Training Schools, and the Central Medical School.

The gross Government expenditure on Fijian education was approximately £23,034 18s. 11d., of which £5,695 13s. 10d. was recovered through fees and provincial contributions.

Indian Education.

In 1934, there were seven Government and fifty-one assisted schools for Indians, with a total roll of 3,290 boys and 1,119 girls. Many of these are two-teacher schools under the control of local committees, the members of which for the most part are uneducated and parochial. Each school was inspected during the year, and there was evidence of progress which will be accelerated as qualified teachers become available. The medium of instruction in the lower classes is Hindustani. English is taught, and tends to become the medium of instruction in the higher classes.

Indian boys may proceed from these schools to the Government Indian school at Natabua, which was established in 1919, where they may prepare for the entrance examination of the New Zealand University. The fee in the primary school is 10s. a year and in the secondary department £7 10s. a year. Provision has been made for boarders in a hostel, the fee being £24 a year.

In Suva there are two Roman Catholic Schools for non-European children at which pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

A few years ago the instruction given in Indian schools was of a poor quality: the lack of experience on the part of managers, who were often illiterate, the lack of qualified teachers, and the complete absence of school material and textbooks each contributed its quota to this undesirable state of affairs. However, trained teachers are now becoming available, managers are taking a keener interest in their duties, and a Hindi-English school journal has been published.

The net cost to the Government of Indian education in 1934 was £9,439 9s. 9d.

Professional and Technical Training.

There are four teacher-training institutions (three Mission and one Government), one medical school, two agricultural training institutions, and two Mission schools for joinery.

Training of Teachers.—The earlier missionaries felt the urgent need for native teachers, and tried to satisfy it. As early as 1856 the Methodist Mission established a central institution for the training of pastors and teachers. It was followed by others better situated and with improved curricula. It was not until 1916 however that the present training institute for teachers was established at Davuilevu where teachers are now prepared for the Government teachers' examinations. The Catholic and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, for a number of years, trained teachers in their own schools, but to-day each Mission has a teacher-training institution on the island of Ovalau.

The Education Commission of 1926 recommended that a Government institution for the training of teachers be established, and that the Methodist Mission training institute be continued and supported by a more generous system of grants-in-aid. Both of these recommendations were adopted. The number of teachers in training at these and the Catholic Mission institutions during 1934 was 79.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate candidates must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university, or an equivalent qualification;

for the lowest or fifth class the standard required is that which would be attained by an English child passing out of the sixth standard. In 1934, 63 Fijian and 14 Indian candidates from training institutions sat for the teachers' certificate examinations, 27 passed and 28 obtained partial passes. The standard of attainment required for a pass is being gradually increased, and already the effect on the efficiency of the schools is very marked. The number of registered teachers and recognized teachers in the Colony during 1934 was 522 and 798 respectively.

There is no provision for the training of European teachers. The posts are filled by teachers trained overseas.

Central Medical School.—This school is a development of a scheme of medical training for natives inaugurated in 1873 at the Colonial Hospital, Suva. The present school was established in 1928 with the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, and it is maintained by joint contributions from the various Pacific administrations. The school is residential, and has accommodation for 40 students. Candidates for admission must have a fair knowledge of English, and selection is made by examination. After a four years' course graduates are granted diplomas in medicine and surgery. There were 36 students in 1934. The decrease in the number of students is consequent on the change from a three to a four years' course. The gross cost of the school was £2,516 8s. 7d.

Navuso Agricultural School.—This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides an elementary course in farming and the management of stock. The roll was 100. Government financial assistance amounted to £300.

In 1926, the Government took over 30 acres of the Navuso estate to be used as an experimental station. There are now nine students at the station receiving instruction in agriculture and a training fitting them to become native agricultural instructors in the Provinces.

Physical and Moral Welfare.

In 1932, regulations for the medical examination of school children were made, under which school medical officers are invested with powers to examine all pupils in registered schools. Indian and Fijian children are entitled to free medical treatment. Instruction in hygiene and sanitation is emphasized in all schools, and pupils are required to keep their school building and grounds clean. Physical exercises and organized games are part of the curriculum of all registered schools. Football, both rugby and association, cricket, and basket-ball are played throughout the Colony, and in certain districts competitions arouse great interest.

An annual grant of £100 and £25 is made by the Government to the Fiji Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides respectively.

Finance.

The gross expenditure on education during 1934 was £46,367 12s. 2d. out of a total expenditure for the Colony of £595,460 6s. 6d. The gross revenue was £12,356 6s. 8d. representing native and other contributions, education rates of Suva and Levuka, boarding and tuition fees, and sale of school requisites. The net Government expenditure on education was therefore £34,011 5s. 6d. or 4s. 8·4d. per head of the population.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Mail communication within the Colony is maintained by means of vessels subsidized by Government, by subsidized motor road services, by mail carriers, and by itinerant vessels.

The S.S. *Malake* runs between Suva, Levuka, Savusavu, Ndeloi (Butha Bay), Rambi, and to the Taveuni coast twice monthly, and between Suva and Lautoka twice monthly. This vessel also calls once every two months at Malau, the port for Lambasa, if so required.

The S.S. *Andi Rewa* runs between Suva, Levuka, Nambouwalu, Ndreketi and Lambasa twice monthly, calling at certain small places *en route* either on the inward or outward journey.

A subsidized cutter conveys mails between Taveuni and Ndeloi (Butha Bay), once weekly.

With the opening of the transinsular road on Viti Levu, it has been possible to arrange for the transport of practically all mails on this island by motor vehicle. The following services are in operation :—

(1) From Suva to Nausori, and return, daily.

(2) From Suva to Nausori, Nanduruloulou, Korovou, Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and Lautoka, and return, three times weekly.

(3) From Lautoka to Nandi and Nandroga, and return, three times weekly.

There is a service by motor launch between Nausori, Viria, and Vunindawa for mails and goods three times weekly.

Carriers are chiefly used on Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kandavu, between post offices on those islands. The services run once weekly.

External communication is provided by the British vessels *Aorangi* and *Niagara* of the Canadian-Australasian Line, to which Company a subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid, and by the American vessels *Mariposa* and *Monterey* of the Matson Navigation Company. The former vessels call at Suva, once in every four weeks, on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver, and the latter, once in every four weeks, on their voyages between Melbourne, Sydney, Aucklang, Pango Pango, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The *Waipahi* provides a four-weekly cargo and limited passenger service between Sydney, Lautoka, Suva and Auckland.

Direct steamers from London to Suva, via Panama, arrive at intervals of approximately six weeks, and occasional calls are made by vessels from Australia and New Zealand travelling to ports in the United Kingdom, via Panama. Calls are also made at fairly regular intervals by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's vessel *Fiona.*

Telephone communication is available between Suva, Nausori, Nanduruloulou and Vunindawa; between Suva, Tailevu and Levuka on the island of Ovalau (communication between Tailevu and Ovalau being by submarine cable); between Suva and Navua; between Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and Lautoka, and between Nandarivatu and Mba. Telephone exchange areas are Suva, Lautoka, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, and rural party lines are maintained on Taveuni (40 miles), and in the Savusavu district on the south-east coast of Vanua Levu.

Wireless stations, operated by Amalgamated Wireless, Limited, are situated at Suva, Taveuni, Lambasa, and Savusavu. The Government operates a permanent station on the island of Rotuma, and also a temporary station at Lautoka. Wireless telephone commuunication exists between Levuka and the Central Leper Hospital at Makongai.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Cable and Wireless, Limited, and by wireless from the Suva station with the principal Groups in the Western Pacific, and also with Honolulu and Sydney.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows:—

	Miles.
Metalled	169¾
Gravelled	336½
Earth (motorable)	80½
Earth (not motorable)	50¼
Bridle tracks	1,593
Total	2,230

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the narrow two-foot gauge laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company on the Rewa River, along the sea coast from Singatoka (south-west Viti Levu) to Tavua (north of Viti Levu), in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Viti Levu, and at Lambasa on the island of Vanua Levu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Singatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government.

The total length of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles. About 220 miles of this total consists of the main line from Singatoka to Tavua, with the necessary branch lines.

Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connexion with the transport work of the Company.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £8,780,000, while that of the latter is £6,328,125. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales was £1,262,920 and by the Bank of New Zealand £388,418 at 31st December, 1934.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 13,234 to 14,190, while the total amount on deposit at the end of the year was £237,681, an increase over the previous year's figure of £1,471.

The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows :—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1934)	297,618
Cash at Bank and with Treasury	8,647
Total	£306,265

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1934 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from investments		11,570
Interest credited to depositors... ...	6,410	
Salaries	1,146	
Expenses	1,854	
		9,410
Surplus		£2,160

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks in the Colony.

The currency in circulation consisted of Government notes, British sterling coin, and Fiji coins of the following denominations issued under Ordinance No. 1 of 1934 :—

Silver—florin.
shilling.
sixpence.
Cupro-nickel—penny.
half-penny.

British coinage is being gradually replaced by the new Fiji coinage, of which £38,170 had been placed in circulation at 31st December, 1934. Government currency notes of a total face value of £506,876 15s. were in circulation at 31st December, 1934. These are fully covered by the investments and cash held in the Note Security Fund at that date.

The surplus of ordinary income over expenditure on account of the transactions of the Commissioners of Currency for the last year amounted to £23,157 14s. 5d. which was transferred to the Colony's general revenue.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from Public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £190,718 1s. 1d. This expenditure was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	s.	d.
Personal emoluments and other charges ...	17,178	19	2
Public works recurrent	78,578	7	1
Public works extraordinary	27,907	1	0
Loan funds	49,462	10	0
Miscellaneous	17,591	3	10
Total ...	£190,718	1	1

The corresponding figures for the previous five years are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1929	242,077	0	0
1930	212,792	0	0
1931	166,690	0	0
1932	160,747	0	0
1933	148,155	0	0

The administration of the Department is under the control of the Director of Public Works, with headquarters in Suva, the execution of the works being carried out by two Assistant Engineers and one Mechanical Engineer.

The Assistant Engineer, Suva, is responsible for all civil engineering work in the Suva district which comprises approximately half of Viti Levu and most of the other islands including Rotuma. His headquarters are at Walu Bay, Suva, where the stores, workshops, garages, etc., are situated.

The Assistant Engineer, Lautoka, is similarly responsible for work in the Lautoka district which comprises the other half of Viti Levu and Yasawa Group. There is a smaller Public Works Department depot at Lautoka, with offices, stores, workshops and garages.

The Mechanical Engineer, is in charge of the principal quarry and stone crushing plant, a fleet of nine launches and tugs, two slipways and extensive workshops for boat building and all kinds of repair work. It is noteworthy that, owing to the recent increase of road mileage and to the low price of copra, the revenue derived from the slipways is declining. In 1932, £1,872 were derived from this source: in 1934, £1,328. As the small craft used on coastal work become unserviceable they are not being replaced at present.

In August, a start was made on the construction of the Rewa River Bridge. This bridge was designed by Messrs. Rendell, Palmer & Tritton from information supplied by the Director of Public Works. When completed, it will consist of three 60 ft. girder spans and nine 129 ft. steel truss spans. The concrete deck, which will be 30 ft. above ordinary high-water level, will be 28 ft. wide to provide an 18 ft. roadway and two 5 ft. footways. The concrete piers will be built upon cylinders which, in some cases, extend to 80 ft. below high-water level. The estimated cost of this work is £75,000 (sterling). By the end of the year much of the plant had been assembled, two large pontoons and three standard punts had been built locally, one abutment had been completed, and the first two piers were in hand. It is expected that the bridge will be completed in 1937.

Other works completed during the year include a new bridge over the Lami River (four 40 ft. spans); Mission Hill Bridge (two 20 ft. spans); and four small bridges on the Mba—Ellington road, all of which are concrete bridges built to replace defective timber structures; the Nandrau Bridge (three 30 ft. spans) which affords access to a large Indian settlement near Mba; and the Waisavu Bridge (three 30 ft. spans) and the Waisomo Bridge (one 30 ft. span), both of which are on the transinsular road.

Two new roads were constructed; one, 7¾ miles in length, is a branch from the transinsular road to the Wainimbuka River near Vunindawa Government station, and the other, 5½ miles long, runs from Tavua to the new goldfields area. The latter was constructed in 17 weeks at a cost of £4,970 9s. 10d. which includes the provision of one 60 ft. and three 30 ft. bridges.

A new 9 in. cast iron main was laid from Tamavua Reservoir to the King's Wharf, Suva, to supply water for shipping. Ample water is now available and revenue is benefiting accordingly.

The detailed survey for the construction of the Suva-Singatoka road was started from Suva and from Singatoka simultaneously. By the end of the year some 16 miles had been completed and over half of the bridge sites had been investigated.

The beaconing of the various waterways and marine dangers was continued during the year. Twenty-two new beacons were driven and 32 defective tops were replaced.

Increased funds for recurrent works were available this year and the general condition of the buildings, floating stock, water supplies, etc., shows considerable improvement.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

The Supreme Court consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall, within the Colony, have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *nisi prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity, and has, within the Colony, the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and, under an Order in Council dated the 10th of March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd of January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than five to two.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English, are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors, with the exception of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, salaried functionaries of any foreign Government not carrying on business, persons employed by the Cable and Wireless, Limited, or by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clergymen and ministers, officers and others on full pay in His Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity or earning an income of less than £150 a year, and persons convicted of any treason, felony, or infamous crime who have not received a full pardon, are disqualified from serving. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Sheriff, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor, after considering the report in Executive Council, communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the Civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony, and is governed in its practice by the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adopt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England.

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are: The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, and Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the Criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the Civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims of value less than £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in whch they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of those inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is governed by Ordinance No. 22 of 1934, which provides that an appeal shall lie to the Court from the decision—

(1) of any Provincial Court established under the provisions of the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, upon the terms and in the manner which may be from time to time prescribed by regulations made under the said Ordinance; or

(2) of any District Commissioner where—

(*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds the sum of three pounds exclusive of any costs ordered to be paid ; or

(*b*) a person has been adjudged by a conviction or order made on information or complaint either as punishment for an offence or for failing to do or abstain from doing any act or thing required to be done or left undone to be imprisoned without the option of a fine ; or

(*c*) a charge has been dismissed ; or

(*d*) in any case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which in the opinion of the Court is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal ; or

(*e*) a sentence of corporal punishment has been ordered.

Provided that no appeal shall lie in the case of any accused person who has pleaded guilty and has been convicted on such plea except as to the extent and legality of the sentence. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in Civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by the Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The most recent edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. First, there are the Provincial Courts, composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor Criminal and Civil powers over natives, and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in Civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

There is one Judge in the Colony (the Chief Justice), 17 Magistrates (District Commissioners), 1 District Magistrate who performs the duties of itinerating Magistrate, 67 Justices of the Peace, and 29 Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 45 criminal cases heard at the sessions during 1934; of these three were murder charges. There were 62 Civil cases instituted in the Civil Division at the Central Registry, composed as follows:—

Money lent	8
Admissions of Barristers	7
Actions for debt	7
Actions for Damages	6
Appointment of Commissioners	4
Goods sold and delivered	3
Rent	3
Injunctions	2
Habeas Corpus	1
Reduction of Capital	1
Petitions and Motions	3
Miscellaneous	17

In the Divorce Court twenty-two petitions were filed, including two by Europeans, four by half-castes, and fourteen by Indians. There were 73 petitions for divorce by native Fijians.

Grants made in the Probate Jurisdiction totalled 101; of these 73 were grants of probate or of Letters of Administration, and 28 re-seals of Colonial and other grants. A total amount of £70,335 1s. 6d. was involved in these grants.

One petition was filed in the Bankruptcy Court.

There were seven applications for admission as barristers and solicitors during the year. There are 17 European and four Indian practitioners in the Colony.

Nine Criminal Appeals were entered for hearing during the year.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1930 to 1934 is given below.

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil Appeal.*	*Criminal Appeal.*	*Grants of Probate, etc.*
1930	115	13	73	48	3	6	3	96
1931	84	12	89	35	2	–	5	66
1932	106	16	79	52	4	2	4	82
1933	103	15	67	35	–	2	12	89
1934	97	22	73	45	2	–	9	101

As a result of increasing Court work on the western side of the island, and to facilitate business, a District Registry was opened at Lautoka in 1932, and process (with the exception of Probate applications and proceedings in Divorce and Bankruptcy) from the districts of Nandroga, Nandi, Lautoka, Mba, Tholo North and Ra are dealt with at that Registry under Supreme Court Rules, 1931. Statistics from this branch are included in the above table as from the year 1932.

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of a mixed force of Fijians and Indians officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the Force are at Suva, where there is a Central Station at Totongo and a Depot at Nasova.

Being quasi-military in organization, the Constabulary is required to suppress internal disturbances and also assist in defending the Colony against external aggression.

Special constables may be enrolled in cases of need.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioners.

ARMAMENT AND TRAINING.

The Force is armed with the S.M.L.E. Mk. III rifle. Regular parades are held throughout the year at Headquarters, and an annual course of musketry is fired. The Force parades for annual inspection by the Governor and also with the Defence Force on ceremonial occasions. Whenever possible police training is given, but in the absence of a Reserve it is difficult to arrange a complete course of training. It is anticipated, however, that approval will be given in 1935 for the establishment of a training school.

STRENGTH.

On the 31st December, 1934, the authorized strength was:—

European.	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd Grade	7
Fijian.	
Non-Commissioned Officers	22
Constables	83
Indian.	
Non-Commissioned Officers	13
Constables	69

EXPENDITURE.

The total cost of the Force was £23,733 8s. 8d., being a rate per head of the population of 2s. 4$\frac{3}{8}$d.

CRIME.

Persons prosecuted for offences against the Person	230
Persons prosecuted for offences against Property	356
Persons prosecuted for other offences	1,564

Committed for Trial by Supreme Court :—

Offences against the Person	34
Offences against Property	18
Other offences	9

OTHER OFFENCES.

Dealt with by District Commissioners :—

Convicted	1,897
Discharged	192

TRAFFIC.

The Constabulary control traffic in the Colony and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1934 was 1,418, made up as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	549
Public motor-cars	243
Lorries for private use	200
Lorries for carriage of goods and materials	226
Private chars-à-bancs	Nil
Public chars-à-bancs	77
Motor-cycles	123

Convictions under the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations numbered 307.

Motor vehicles having a gross loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly constructed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

Prisons.

The control of prisons is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons.

The central gaol is situated at Suva, in the direct charge of the Superintendent of Prisons.

There are in addition 17 provincial gaols where short term prisoners are confined. Constabulary officers and in some instances District Commissioners are superintendents of these gaols.

In provincial gaols the prisoners are principally employed in the maintenance of Government stations, in cutting firewood, or in manning the Government boats. They are also employed in the prison food plantations, where native food-stuffs are grown with a view to reducing the cost of rations. Only a limited number of prisoners are confined in provincial gaols, any surplus being transferred to the central gaol in Suva.

All gaols are visited weekly by the District Commissioner as Visiting Justice who hears complaints and sees that the Prison Regulations are complied with.

Vocational Training.

At the central gaol, bread-baking, tailoring, tin-smithing, mat-making, carpentry, gardening, the making of awnings and tarpaulins, and saw-milling are taught.

Bread is supplied from the gaol to all Government institutions in and around Suva. The output for the year was 271,055 lb. of bread.

Firewood cut from the local forests by prisoners and sawn at the central gaol saw-mill, is also supplied to all Government institutions in and around Suva.

Health of Prisoners.

A fully-equipped infirmary is attached to the central gaol at Suva, in the care of a resident Indian medical practitioner, under the supervision of a European medical officer who visits the infirmary three times a week. The health of prisoners during the year was good.

Religious Instruction.

Ministers and priests of the following denominations are authorized to hold weekly services: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, Hindu, Sikh and Moslem. The services are well patronized and the work of these religious institutions is greatly appreciated by the administration. Religious books are available for prisoners at all times.

Juvenile Offenders.

Juvenile offenders are detained on the island of Makaluva under a European officer who gives them educational instruction and manual training. They are visited regularly by the Superintendent of Prisons as Superintendent of Places of Detention for Juveniles, and quarterly by a Board of Visitors consisting of the Chief Medical Officer, the Director of Public Works, and the Director of Education.

Classification of Prisoners.

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners waiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisoned with hard labour.

STAFF.

The Gaoler and Overseers at the central gaol are Europeans as also are the Superintendents in charge of provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists of Fijians and Indians.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

There was only one case of corporal punishment inflicted during the year.

XIV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Although subject, in common with all other sections of the community, to the laws of the Colony, the Fijians continue to enjoy a very large measure of self-government. Under the Native Regulations, which were revised in 1927, provision is made for the performance communally of all duties which are deemed to be for the benefit of the Fijian community. These duties include house building, village sanitation, cultivation of crops for food or profit, maintenance of roads and communal property, the care of the sick and the control of infectious diseases. The domestic affairs of each district are under the control of a District Council which is composed of tribal Chiefs and village Headmen, and is presided over by the Mbuli of the district. Subject to the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to make regulations for the good government of their respective districts, and to elect representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Native Administration of each Province is controlled by a Provincial Council. These Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils, and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. With the approval of the Governor, these Councils have power to levy rates to defray the cost of provincial administration, and to make regulations for the good government and welfare of the inhabitants of the respective Provinces. They also have the right to elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council, which is composed of native officials, Chiefs nominated by the Governor or the Secretary for Native Affairs, and provincial representatives, meets every two years and advises the Governor on all matters touching the welfare of the natives as a whole. From the Chiefs nominated by this Council the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. This series of Councils provides a means whereby the opinions and aspirations of the Fijian people are adequately represented in the Legislature of the Colony. Infringements of Native Regulations are dealt with in District and Provincial Courts. A District Court is presided over by a Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and a Provincial Court by a District Commissioner and Native Stipendiary Magistrate. Appeal lies from a District to a Provincial Court and from a Provincial Court, in its original jurisdiction, to the Supreme Court of the Colony. No change was made during the year in the system of native administration, which is well understood by the Fijians and is in accord with native tradition and custom.

Throughout the year the general health of the native population was good, although outbreaks of whooping-cough were responsible for an increase in infantile mortality. The physical well-being of the natives is under the care of the Medical Service, the staff of which is comprised of European medical officers and nurses, native and Indian medical practitioners, and native obstetric nurses. The native and Indian medical practitioners are trained at the Central Medical School attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, and the native obstetric nurses at the Suva and Lautoka hospitals. All Fijians are given free medical and surgical treatment at the general and provincial hospitals, and at the hands of the European and native medical officers throughout the Colony. Many of the native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses are not attached to hospitals but travel throughout the country districts and attend to the natives in their own homes.

The campaign undertaken conjointly by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Government for the improvement of sanitary conditions in native villages by the provision of bore-hole latrines was continued during the year. The vital statistics for the year were satisfactory and show improvement over those of the previous year. The total increase in the population was 1,823, as compared with 1,680 in 1933. The total native population at the end of 1934 was estimated at 98,479 which gives an increase of 14,004 since the last census, in 1921.

Child welfare work has been continued during the year. The control of this work is in the hands of a Central Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Inspecting Medical Officer. District Committees, under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner, have been formed in each district. The Inspecting Medical Officer travelled extensively during the year and was able to visit and supervise the work in many of the distant parts of the Group. Child welfare work has now been extended to practically every district in Fiji. In most of the villages women's committees have been formed, and regular inspections of the children are carried out and minor ailments treated. Severe cases are brought to the nearest hospital for treatment. Towards the latter part of the year it was possible to re-establish a child welfare centre at Rotuma. A Roman Catholic Mission Sister carried out this work conjointly with her other duties. There has been a steady increase in the total native population which is no doubt largely due to the efforts of the child welfare workers.

There continues to be an improvement in the standard of Fijian education. This is mainly due to better-trained teachers becoming available. The number of recognized schools which employ untrained teachers and receive no assistance from Government funds is decreasing. Several new schools were established during the year, and in many districts the natives have levied upon themselves, by resolution of their District Councils, a small education rate. These rates are, in the majority of cases, supplementary to the salary grants from the Government, and are used for equipment and maintenance expenses. The further development of Fijian district and group schools will depend upon the funds to be made available as grants-in-aid, and to the extent to which the Fijians can afford to supplement these funds. Although funds do not as yet permit of the universal education of the natives, the high standard which is being attained by a large number of group and district schools provides a sure foundation upon which to build in the future. Education of a more advanced type, including practical agricultural and manual instruction, is provided in the Government provincial schools, and the central Mission institutions. Selected pupils from these schools may continue their education at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, from which many pass to the Teachers' Training Institution, the Central Medical School, the Agricultural Department Training Centre, and the Government and Provincial Services. A detailed survey of native education is given in another section of this report.

The majority of the Fijians remain dependent for their livelihood upon the produce of their lands. The past year has again been free from hurricanes and floods. Throughout the whole Group native food-stuffs have been more than sufficient for the needs of the people. The yield of the copra plantations has continued to improve, although the market price of copra was only £4 a ton at the end of the year. During 1934, 23,520 tons were exported as compared with 22,597 tons in 1933. Banana shipments during the year were as follows:—151,822 cases to New Zealand, and 9,398 cases to Australia, or a total of 161,220 cases. This represents an increase of 552 cases over the exports for 1933. The average price paid to Fijian growers for bananas shipped to both Australia and New Zealand has increased to 3s. 7d. per case for 1934, as against 2s. 8d. in 1933, and 2s. 3d. in 1932. Of the bananas exported 79·01 per cent. were purchased from the Fijians, as compared with 78·1 per cent. in 1933, and 64·3 per cent. in 1932. The quota system, which was instituted some five years ago, has proved a great success, resulting in a much better class of fruit being sent to Suva by the growers for export. The Agricultural Department is also spared a vast amount of work in the matter of inspection, which was unavoidable under the old system of indiscriminate export. Trial shipments of bananas to Canada have recently been made, and there is every reason to anticipate that before long a firm and reliable market will be established in that country. The Fijians have continued to take up land for the cultivation of sugar-cane as a result of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's successful scheme of settling them on cane lands as tenant farmers. They have also taken up cane planting on their own lands in increasing numbers. The Methodist Mission Agricultural School for Fijians at Navuso continues to do good work, and the effects on the Fijian race show promise of being far reaching. The natives are now more and more adapting themselves to the use of agricultural implements and the use of animals.

A meeting of the Native Regulations Board was held in October.

XV.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics and Allied Questions.

No census has been taken since the year 1921, but it is estimated that the Indian population on the 31st December, 1934, was 83,289, being 48,748 males and 34,541 females. The disproportion in numbers of the sexes is slowly being adjusted by natural causes, assisted by the strict control that is now exercised over immigration. During the year there were 3,098 births, representing a birth-rate of 31·19 per 1,000, and 845 deaths, representing a death-rate of 10·15 per 1,000, and the infant mortality rate under five years was 10·55 per centum of live births. The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 2,253, but Indian emigration exceeded immigration by 214 so that the net increase of population for the year was 2,039. The natural increase in population of 2,253 compares favourably with the increase over the same period of 1,748 in the larger native Fijian population, and may be accepted as an indication of the healthy, virile state of the Indian people of Fiji.

In the absence of a recent census it is impossible to arrive at a close estimate of the situation regarding the Provinces of their origin in India of Indians in Fiji. The position was surveyed in the Annual Report for 1931, and taking this and whatever new information is available as a basis for calculation, it may be restated with respect to the year under review as follows: The great majority of the Indians of Fiji, being either persons who came to the Colony under indenture or their descendants, can trace their origin to the United Provinces or to Madras, a rough estimate of the population derived from each of these sources being 50,500 and 23,500 respectively. During the years which followed the cessation of immigration under indenture a new class of immigrant, consisting almost entirely of males derived from the eastern districts of the Punjab and from the Bombay Presidency, was attracted to the Colony by rumours of high wages and favourable economic conditions generally. Owing to measures adopted, principally in the interests of Indians in Fiji, to control immigration it is estimated that the numbers of these recent immigrants do not exceed in the case of Punjabis 2,500 and in the case of Gujeratis 2,000. These figures may be taken as a rough estimate of the proportions of the population that have been drawn from the four Provinces in India from which the great bulk of the Fiji Indians have originated. They account in round figures for 78,500 out of a total estimated population of 83,289, and leave a balance of 4,787 of which the origin is in doubt.

Emigration and Immigration.

Emigration.—Some three years practical experience of Ordinance No. 24 of 1930 has shown that it has removed most of the difficulties and misunderstandings that formerly existed with regard to repatriation. Very little desire is being evinced by Indians to exercise their repatriation rights, and the number of passengers, including one small infant, returned to India by the S.S. *Ganges* on the 22nd of August, 1934, at the Government expense, fell to 123, namely, 87 males and 36 females. There also left the Colony by the S.S. *Ganges* some 125 males and 10 females who paid their own passages to India, while those Indians who left the Colony during the year by all other routes numbered 285 males and 65 females, bringing the total number of Indians who left the Colony during the year up to 608, namely, 498 males and 110 females.

Immigration.—A total of 394 Indians entered the Colony by all routes during the year, the number being made up of 310 males and 84 females.

The establishment of a direct steamship service with India has been of advantage to the Government and to the Colony, but from the viewpoint of the owners of the S.S. *Ganges* it has been unfortunate that the inauguration of the service coincided both with a decline in repatriation and with the imposition of restrictions on immigration by the Government. From every point of view it is hoped that the residue of trade between India and Fiji will continue to provide inducement for the maintenance of this service.

There is still a very strong demand in India for opportunities to emigrate to Fiji, and constant vigilance is required to give effect to the policy of restricting immigration which is carried out with the helpful co-operation of the Government of India under a system of issuing permits to successful applicants. Under the present policy assurance is obtained that employment awaits all new immigrants. Female immigration and immigration in small families are encouraged to a limited extent, but male immigration is restricted as closely as possible to such skilled workers as are required to maintain the essential Indian trades in a state of efficiency. This policy appears to be fully justified by conditions now existing in the Colony.

Economic.

Indians have come to participate on a generous scale in practically every sphere of the economic life of the Colony. In trading occupations they play a more important part as individual traders than as proprietors of large business concerns, but in the matter of road transportation they are by far the largest proprietors and they provide the greatest number of drivers of all classes of vehicles plying for hire. As labourers they are entering the skilled trades in increasing numbers, while they are still the most numerous and the most efficient in the class of unskilled labourers for most classes of work.

It is natural that it should be in the capacity of agriculturists that Indians play their most important role, and they play it in all branches of farming and in practically every capacity. Although there is a steady increase in the number of Indian large-scale land owners, the great bulk of the proprietary agricultural population consists of peasant farmers whose holdings are either in the form of direct leases from the native owners, or of sub-tenancies. The situation with regard to short-term sub-leases is still often difficult because the sub-tenants are slow to avail themselves of the security of registered sub-leases. In several recent cases the Government has made the renewal of the head leases conditional upon an undertaking by the lessors to provide all sub-tenants with registered sub-leases, and this action is effecting the dual purpose of providing security to the sub-tenants concerned, and of illustrating the advantages to be obtained from registered sub-leases.

By far the greatest number of sub-leases in the sugar areas are let by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to their sugar-cane farmers, but in their case the conditions of the sub-lease provide ample security of tenure for the industrious tenant who is willing, in his own interests as much as otherwise, to agree to certain restrictions imposed by the Company chiefly with the object of securing profitable crops and of conserving the fertility of the soil. In addition to the opening which it provides for the Indian agriculturist an immense educational value attaches to the tenant farmer system, which has contributed more than any other enterprise towards the general prosperity and advancement of the Indian community.

It has been stated in the reports of former years that the value to the Indian community of the sugar industry extends beyond its actual cash takings as growers and labourers, to a large number of Indian traders, agriculturists and others, who are dependent for their livelihood on activities arising in an indirect manner out of that industry. In this manner it is estimated that the number of Indians who are dependent both directly and indirectly on the sugar industry is now hardly less than 45,000, representing approximately 55 per centum of the total Indian population of the Colony.

During the 1934 season the Colonial Sugar Refining Company purchased 727,110 tons of sugar-cane from Indian farmers which was cropped off 39,618 acres and yielded to the growers the total sum of £563,545, representing an average price equal to 15s. 6d. per ton. Of the total area under crop, 20,775 acres which were cultivated by tenant farmers of the Company yielded 417,302 tons, equivalent to 20·9 tons to the acre, and 17,843 acres cultivated by independent farmers yielded 307,808 tons, equivalent to 17·4 tons per acre. The difference of 3·5 tons between the yield per acre of the Company's tenants and that of the independent farmers, even when account is taken of the better average quality of land owned by the Company, provides an instructive lesson in the value of scientific cultivation.

Outside of sugar cultivation most of the crops produced by Indians are disposed of in the local markets. Rice ranks next to sugar in order of its importance, and it is worthy of note that the industry was profitably maintained with the assistance of the small mills that are springing up throughout the Colony, after the closing of the Government rice mill in Suva. A regrettable incident was the loss incurred to Indian pineapple growers through the failure of the West Coast Pines Company, and the feeling of insecurity that was induced by these losses among small Indian investors. The suspension of cotton operations for a time is another matter which gave concern to Indian growers, many of whom were prepared to plant cotton on a large scale.

There has been no change in the general level of wages, nor in the conditions of work, and there is little unemployment in the Colony. The opportunities afforded to labourers by the sugar industry are largely seasonal, the greatest number of labourers being employed in the mills and in the field during the cane crushing season. This arrangement is well suited to the needs of the labourers, the great majority of whom are peasant-holders, as it enables them to cultivate their holdings during the parts of the year when the mills are not operating. Field labourers in the sugar areas earn up to 20s. per week, and mill labourers earn from 10s. to 21s. a week. The standard wage in Suva continues to be 2s. 6d. per day, and the wages in the country districts vary between 2s. and 2s. 6d. A small minority only of the population is entirely dependent for its livelihood on cash wages.

Religious and Social.

With respect to the religious observances of Indians, it is estimated that there are in the Colony 72,690 Hindus (including approximately 5,000 Arya Samajists and 2,000 Sikhs), 8,839 Muslims, 973 Christians, and 787 whose religions have not been determined. It is natural that some modification in religious forms should have taken place as a result of the new environment of Fiji, and the most obvious change has been the discarding of most of the caste system. There is, on the other hand, no tendency to fall away from religion, which appears, on the contrary, to play an increasingly important part as the social and economic position of the Indian community advances. The Colony is not, of course, free from outbursts of sectional strife either between rival religions or within the ranks of individual religions, and, if no serious consequences have yet resulted from these disputes, they have often given rise to anxiety, and the disunity produced by religious rivalries is perhaps the most serious obstacle in the path of Indian education and of the advancement of Indians in many other respects.

It may justly be stated that the Indians of Fiji are making the same steady progress in the social sense as they are in other regards. There is an increasing tendency to resort to legal marriages in preference to those casual unions which have caused so much difficulty and suffering in the past. There were registered during the year 1,038 marriages between Indians, a figure which exceeds one half of the total number of marriages of all classes for the period. Some revision of the marriage laws as affecting Indians is now under consideration, the chief reforms that are contemplated being the raising by one year of the marriageable age, and the removal of certain provisions which have been rendered obsolete owing to the advancement attained during recent years by the Indian community. Indian thought is moving steadily towards the abolition of all the old standing social abuses, a healthy indication of this progressive tendency being evidenced in the growing interest shown by enlightened Indian women in all social matters. An Indian Women's League was founded recently in Suva, and under intelligent leadership it is proving a social asset of high potential value which has already extended its activities to hospitals and other institutions where Indians are detained. The Women's League is now successfully directing its attention towards the adjustment of the difficulties that are not infrequently experienced by Indian women of a certain class who, neglected by husband or paramour, are, by reason of poverty or ignorance, unable to defend themselves. The higher tendencies which are becoming more and more evident are certain to produce a form of public opinion which will play an important part in eliminating certain objectionable practices which are still too common in Indian social life.

In manners, dress, and some other respects there is a tendency to fashion social advancement on the European pattern, and it is difficult at this stage to say how far custom and religion will allow this tendency to progress. Apart from the most formal functions there has been very little tendency in the European and Indian communities to form a close association in the social sense, but the limitations of their association are recognized by enlightened Indians, as well as Europeans, to be the result of differences in religion, custom or mode of living, which for the present are irreconcilable, rather than to race prejudice. Educated Indians, and especially professional men who have come to the Colony from elsewhere, are at a serious disadvantage owing to the difficulty they experience in finding associates in their own race who are intellectually and socially their equal. In spite of differences which have so far precluded any intimate association, there is a growing cordiality in the relationship of European and Indian which is tending to remove many old causes of misunderstanding.

Medical and other Services.

Provision has always been made either directly by Government, or under Government supervision, for the free medical treatment of Indians of humble means. The introduction of the Residential Tax followed soon after the cessation of the indenture system, and at a time when the Medical Services had to be readjusted to meet the needs of the Indian community in its altered circumstances. A policy of extending the Medical Services in the interests of Indians as well as of the remaining community was given effect to during the succeeding years in various ways, but principally by opening up new hospitals and dispensary services. As a result of this policy the people of the Colony, including the Indian community, have at their disposal a very extensive and efficient medical organization.

Indian Paupers.

In the days when the system of labour under indenture was in force, all employees were obliged to contribute towards the Destitute Immigrants Fund, which was expended by the Government on the relief of necessitous Indians. Since the cessation of the indenture system the Government has continuously shouldered the responsibility for the care of Indian paupers, and its efforts in this direction are carried out by the twofold means of distributing outdoor relief, and of maintaining a combined poor-house and infirmary. In the favourable conditions of Fiji, pauperism is almost entirely confined to a small number of old people and chronic invalids. The total number of persons in receipt of Government assistance during 1934 was 47. Outdoor relief has seldom to be paid in sums that would be sufficient for the complete maintenance of an individual or family, but rather it takes the form of a subsistence allowance, and in this manner it encourages the relatives and friends of necessitous persons to bear a share of the burden of their support. In this connexion it has to be stated to the great credit of the Indian community that every effort is made to support the aged and infirm without calling for Government assistance. The poor-house was reconstructed recently on the site of the old immigration depot in Suva, and is capable of housing 20 inmates, the average daily number of inmates in 1934 having been 9. Since the majority of inmates are permanent and helpless invalids a comparatively large staff is required to attend to them and overhead costs are high, the total average cost per pauper being very much higher than in the case of oudoor relief. The whole system of pauper relief has been carefully thought out, and may justly be regarded as conforming with the present needs of the Indian community.

Education.

No change has taken place in the Government's policy with regard to Indian education. The Government schools are always more or less full, and being centrally situated they are fulfilling the purpose of exemplifying the correct conduct of schools of this type. Since it has been found impossible in the present state of the Indian community to devise means of raising any direct levy for educational purposes no alteration has been made in the system of paying grants towards the cost of maintaining schools where the education attains an approved standard. It has frequently been noted that the grant-in-aid system has the advantage of securing a contribution from Indians, and of giving Indians a share of responsibility in school management, while it retains to the Government a reasonable measure of control over educational standards.

The rolls* of Indian schools contain the names of 3,660 boys and 1,140 girls, as compared with 3,003 boys and 1,027 girls in 1933. The average attendance was—2,651 boys and 881 girls.

Teachers continued to be trained at the Teachers' Training School in Lautoka, and at institutions belonging respectively to the Methodist and Roman Catholic Mission, which are subsidized by the Government.

Administrative.

Dr. V. W. T. McGusty, Secretary for Indian Affairs, who acted as Chief Medical Officer during most of the year, remained in the post of Secretary for Indian Affairs only from the 1st of January to the 17th of February, when he was succeeded for the rest of the year by Mr. J. Judd, who had previously been acting as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Indian Advisory Committees have now been appointed in eight districts, and the District Commissioners all report favourably upon the valuable assistance and advice which they obtain from these Committees on all matters affecting Indians. Members of the Committees are showing a keen and intelligent interest and are already recognized by the members of their community as the holders of a responsible and authoritative position. Many valuable suggestions regarding administrative matters have emanated from the members of the Advisory Committees.

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* These figures include enrolments in unassisted schools.

XVI.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1934, of which the following are the principal:—

The Fiji Coinage Ordinance provides the legislation required to cover the issue of the new Fiji silver and copper-nickel coinage within the Colony. The new coins are made legal tender in the case of silver coins up to 40 shillings and in the case of copper-nickel coins up to one shilling. Provision is made for the establishment of a Coinage Security Fund and the keeping of a Coinage Income Account, and the Commissioners are required to publish half-yearly statements showing the number of Fiji coins in circulation, the amount of the Coinage Security Fund and a list of the nominal value, cost price and latest known market price of the securities held by the Fund. An annual statement of their transactions must also be made by the Commissioners to the Governor and to the Secretary of State.

The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance introduces a system of import quotas applicable to textile goods of foreign manufacture. The Governor by Proclamation fixes the quota for the prescribed period. No goods covered by the quota may be imported without a licence issued by the Comptroller of Customs. When the total value of the goods has been imported the licence must be surrendered to the Comptroller. The Comptroller is required to keep a record of goods covered by the quota and any person may at any time ascertain from the Customs Department the total value of any textiles already imported from any particular foreign country during the quota period. Importation in excess of the quota may be allowed if the Governor so proclaims upon payment of such additional duty as may be prescribed in the Proclamation.

The Mining Ordinance replaces the Mining Ordinance, 1908. Although the new Ordinance contains much fuller provisions there is no radical departure from the general policy of the previous Ordinance. There are two material changes; the first is that the Governor may proclaim a mining area in any given district without the necessity of prior acquisition of the land for public purposes; the second one is the expressed reservation to the Crown of all minerals of every description. The rent to be charged in respect of a mining lease is a sub-surface rent only. Provision is included for the occupation and use for mining purposes of any part or the whole of the surface of the land as may be allowed and specified in the mining lease. Licences may be granted for the use of land outside the boundaries of a mining lease for purposes connected therewith, and a surface rental is charged therefor. Provision is made for the amalgamation of one or more contiguous mining leases. There are special provisions relating to prospecting and mining on alienated lands. There is a provision for the deposit of an amount estimated to be required as compensation for any damage likely to be done to the surface of the land or to any improvements thereon. The administration of the Ordinance is retained in the Mining Board which is to comprise three official and two unofficial members. In addition to their general powers the Board is empowered subject to the approval and discretion of the Governor, to grant prospectors' rights, prospecting licences and with the approval of the Governor in Council, mining leases. Every prospector is required to notify the District Commissioner of his intention to operate in his district.

The Public Works Loan Ordinance authorizes the raising of a loan not exceeding £105,000 sterling to be applied in the construction of the Suva-Singatoka road and West Coast Road. Provision is also made to empower the Legislative Council to fix a toll for the use of the roads or any part thereof.

Education Rating Ordinance provides for the levying of an Education rate in the districts of Suva and Levuka and for the Town Councils to levy such rate under the powers conferred by the Municipal Institutions Ordinance, 1909.

Appeals Ordinance replaces the Appeals Ordinance, 1932. It follows very closely on the lines of the Repeal Ordinance but contains several new provisions.

The Suva Improvement (Loan) (Amendment) Ordinance gives general powers to the Municipal Council at any time with the prior consent of the Secretary of State to raise loans for the purpose of making desirable improvements within the Municipality.

The Emigration (Amendment) Ordinance removes certain restrictions on the emigration of Indians.

The Immigration Fund Ordinance closes the immigration fund at £140,000 and transfers the balance to General Revenue. The interest accruing on the £140,000 is to be credited to General Revenue.

XVII.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	**584,515**	**536,079**	**750,010**	**785,027**	**35,017**	—
1927 ...	**586,574**	**534,939**	**898,491**	**881,752**	—	**16,739**
1928 ...	**709,534**	**567,845**	**597,903**	**439,475**	—	**158,428**
1929 ...	**677,945**	**642,124**	**557,043**	**362,794**	—	**194,249**
1930 ...	**638,763**	**645,291**	**408,971**	**221,250**	—	**187,721**
1931 ...	**565,393**	**605,973**	**452,080**	**304,940**	—	**147,140**
1932 ...	**547,461**	**528,604**	**449,743**	**283,746**	—	**165,997**
1933 ...	**605,2[illegible]1**	**569,984**	**590,660**	**389,446**	—	**201.214**
1934 ...	**782,914**	**722.963**	**770,343**	**509,178**	—	**261.165**

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931 but increased at the end of 1934 to £261,165.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1934, was as under:—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928)	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929)	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932) ...	154,996
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 and Ordinance No. 17 of 1934)	182,497
Total ... ... (sterling)	£1,273,901

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928 and is redeemable between 1946-53. The stock bears interest at 5 per cent. and was issued at 101.

A second loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and is redeemable in 1955. During that year, £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. The loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Public Works Loan, sufficient to produce £160,000, was raised in 1932 by the Crown Agents in two instalments, on 2nd August and 3rd November, at the price of £102 and £105 respectively for each £100 of stock. This loan bears interest at 4 per cent. and sinking fund contribution is at the rate of 2·32 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st February, 1959.

The Rewa Bridge Loan of £75,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 (as amended by Ordinance No. 11 of 1931 and Ordinance No. 5 of 1934) and the Public Works Loan of £105,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 17 of 1934 were raised as a single loan of £180,000 by the Crown Agents in November, 1934. Fiji Government Inscribed Stock was created to the nominal value of £182,497 of which £120,000 was sold to the market at 99 and the balance was taken up by the Crown Agents at the same price on behalf of various Colonial Government funds. The annual rate of interest is 3 per cent., and the Sinking Fund contribution is at the rate of 1·56 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st December, 1970, with optional redemption, in whole or in part, on or after 1st December, 1960.

The sinking fund in connexion with the Specific Loan amounted to £51,913 Fiji at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £22,783 Fiji. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £13,584 Fiji at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan amounted to £7,862 Fiji at the close of the year.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year amounted to £782,914, an increase of £177,713 as compared with 1933. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows:—

	£
Customs	311,845
Port, wharfage, and light dues	22,565
Native taxes	14,389
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified	89,582
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and reimbursements-in-aid	64,889
Post Office	23,973
Rent of Government property	13,446
Interest	45,639
Miscellaneous	8,794
Land sales and premia on leases	16
Colonial Development Fund	5,920
Extraordinary receipts	181,856

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income tax were £18,111, £4,000 and £23,649 respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £22,115. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-Accountant by the end of March each year: penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment provided that British Empire material and labour represent not less than 25 per cent. in most cases, 50 per cent. in others, and in one or two cases 75 per cent. of the value of the goods, and that the final process of manufacture was performed within the Empire.

On most articles subject to *ad valorem* duty the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and benzine on which duties of 9d. and 8d. per gallon respectively are levied irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty :—

Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; church furniture; infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weed-killers; wire netting, galvanized, of not less than 4-inch mesh; wire, galvanized, fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries :—

Animals; birds and fish, living; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; periodicals and music, printed; coconuts; collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty :—

Agricultural implements and butter making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem* if of British manufacture and 25 per cent. *ad valorem* if of foreign manufacture; agricultural machines; sugar-making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem.*

The following are some of the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty :—

Ale and beer in bottles 4s. a gallon British preferential rate, 6s. a gallon general rate; confectionery 3d. a lb. plus 10 per cent. British preferential rate and 6d. a lb. plus 30 per cent. general rate; cornflour 1d. a lb. and 1½d. a lb.; cinema films free British preferential rate and 3d. per 100 feet general rate: dried ginger per 1d. lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; matches, wooden, in boxes containing not more than 60 matches British preferential rate per gross boxes 4s. 6d., general rate 6s. 9d. per gross; hops 1s. a lb. and 2s. a lb.; macaroni and vermicelli 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; maize 6d. a bushel and 10½d. a bushel; malt extract, non-spirituous, 1s. a lb. and 1s. 9d. a lb.; oatmeal, 1d. per lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; soap plain 1d. a lb. and 2d. a lb.; spices 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; tea 6d. a lb. containing no less than 75 per cent. British growth and 9d. a lb.; tobacco manufactured 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber rough 2s. and 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber dressed 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines, still, 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines, sparkling, 10s. and 15s. a gallon.

The following are the principal articles which are subject to alternative rates of duty:—

Bicycles, preferential rate 15s. each or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty. General rate 30s. each or 40 per cent.

Boots and shoes, rubber and canvas, British preferential rate 6d. to 1s. per pair according to sizes or 20 per cent. *ad valorem.* General rate 1s. 7½d. to 2s. 1½d. or 40 per cent.

Textile piece-goods—British preferential rate 1d. to 3d. per yard according to width or 20 per cent. General rate 2d. to 6d. or 40 per cent.

Hats and caps, men's and boys'—British preferential rate 6d. each or 20 per cent., general rate 1s. or 40 per cent.

Shirts—British preferential rate 4s. to 6s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. to 12s. or 40 per cent.

Singlets or undervests—sizes up to 28 inches, per dozen, 1s. preferential rate, general rate 2s., sizes exceeding 28 inches, per dozen, 2s. preferential rate and 4s. general rate; or *ad valorem* 20 per cent. preferential rate, 40 per cent. general rate, whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Towels, bath and face, exceeding 24 inches in length—British preferential rate 2s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 4s. or 40 per cent.

Umbrellas, parasols and sunshades—each, British preferential rate 6d., general rate 1s. or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Electric lamp bulbs, incandescent filament, having, at the marked voltage, a power consumption—

Not exceeding 8 watts, each, British preferential rate 1d., general rate 2d.

Exceeding 8 watts and not exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 2d., general rate 4d.

Exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 3d., general rate 6d. or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Wrapping paper—British preferential rate 5s. per cwt. or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. 9d. or 40 per cent.

Spirits, perfumed and scented waters—British preferential rate 26s. and 10 per cent. per liquid gallon or 20 per cent., general rate 39s. per gallon and 25 per cent. or 40 per cent.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff but aims at fostering, as far as possible, local industries, and in this regard affords protection to the rice industry by imposing a duty of £2 per ton under the British preferential rate and £3 per ton under the foreign rate, and provides, further, that if the cost, duty paid and landed at a Customs shed at a port of entry in the Colony, falls below £15 per ton, the duty shall be increased by such amount as shall bring such landed cost duty paid to £15 per ton. It provides, further, for the admission free of duty of bags and sacks over two bushels.

Protection is also afforded to the local butter industry by the imposition of a duty of 4d. per pound on all fresh butter imported and provides for the admission free of duty of boxes of wood made up or in shooks to be used as containers of butter the produce of the Colony.

The soap industry is also protected by a duty of 1d. per pound under the British preferential rate and 2d. per pound under the general tariff rate on soap, laundry, in bar or cake, and sandsoap, and, with a view to affording further assistance to this industry the tariff was recently amended providing for the admission free of duty of resin and tallow of British manufacture which previously paid a duty of 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively.

XVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to reassessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to reassessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to reassessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to reassessment to a maximum not exceeding five per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1934 :—

Nature of title.	*No. of titles.*	*Area.*	*In process of alienation.*		*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
			No. of lots.	*Estimated area.*		
Freeholds	1,592	532,605	2	34	532,639	—
Leases of Crown land	729	20,236	61	2,625	22,861	—
Leases of Native land	7,745	305,782	324	5,205	310,987	—
			Total ...	...	**866,487**	**4,523,620**

Four hundred and ninety-two applications for leases of native lands aggregating 11,250 acres were received during the year. Of these, 253 applications for 3,054 acres were approved and 137 applications for 5,809 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 88 per cent. of the total. Seventy-two applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 3,563 acres. Of these, 41 applications for 986 acres were approved and 18 applications for 2,186 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Matanggali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, and two native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land, and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

During the year the Commission completed the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of land-owners of illegitimate birth in the Provinces of Tholo North, Ra, Mba, Lautoka, Nandi, and Nandroga and Tholo West. Enquiries were continued in the Province of Lau.

SURVEY.

The strength of the survey staff of the Lands and Survey Department was reduced from six officers to five in September by the retirement of one officer. Two senior members of the staff were almost continuously employed at headquarters in administrative work, in the examination of plans, and in alignment surveys for the Suva Municipal Council. The remaining members of the staff were employed in country districts in the survey of leased lands, standard traverse surveys, the design and re-subdivision of Indian settlements, and other miscellaneous work. Fifty-six miles of main and subsidiary traverse surveys were carried out in the Provinces of Nandronga and Tailevu in Viti Levu, and in the island of Taveuni. Instructions for the survey of leases of native and Crown lands were issued by the Crown Surveyor to six surveyors in private practice. Four hundred and ten plans of surveys made by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Meteorological Records.

It is pleasing to record that another year passed without a visitation by a hurricane or cyclonic disturbance.

The weather conditions that prevailed during 1934 were somewhat similar to those of the previous year, except that the months of November and December were comparatively dry. On the whole however 1934 was a wet year with a total fall of 134·33 in.; this being 15·72 in. above the average of 118·61 in. over a period of fifty years. March was the wettest month, with a fall of 22·65 in., and June the driest, with 3·20 in. for the month. The wettest day of the year also occurred in March when 6·16 in. fell on the 19th. November and December were dry and rather pleasant summer months, particularly December which had only one day with extreme temperature, namely, 91° F., and an average daily sunshine of 8·8 hours.

There are now 44 rainfall stations in the Colony which forward to the central office at Suva monthly returns from which the normals are worked out each month and a summary published in the Annual Meteorological Report. Salialevu, Taveuni, again proved to be the wettest station, with a total fall for the year of 213·69 in. This is in marked contrast with a total fall of 47·54 in. recorded at Richmond, Kadavu, which is the least amount recorded at any station during the year. Both these stations had the wettest and driest months respectively, an exceptional fall of 65·72 in. occurring at Salialevu in March, whilst only 0·23 in. fell at Richmond in June.

TEMPERATURES.

The mean temperature for the year was 77·6° F., an increase over the average of 0·6° F., but 0·2° F. lower than last year. January proved to be the hottest month and July again the coolest.

PRESSURE.

Pressure for the year was again above normal especially during the summer months.

WINDS.

The prevailing direction of wind for the year was East, as shown by the following table, which records the wind frequency for 730 observations :—

N.	*N.E.*	*E.*	*S.E.*	*S.*	*S.W.*	*W.*	*N.W.*	*Calms.*
63	142	238	130	35	30	20	10	62

SUNSHINE.

The average daily sunshine for the year amounted to 5·2 hours. May, a cloudy and wet month, had very litle sunshine, the average daily hours being 2·3. For the sixteen days (13th to 29th) the total amount of bright sunshine was only 1·1 hours reducing the average for the period to 0·07 hours daily. December was a month of sunshine, the total hours being 274·1. There were no sunless days.

DESCRIPTIVE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY.

January.—A hot summer month with mean temperature 2·1° F. above the average. The extreme temperature of 95° F. which occurred on the 20th was the highest temperature recorded during the year. Rainfall was a little less than normal, the deficiency being 2·21 ins.

February.—A normal month as regards temperature, but wet and humid. Rainfall exceeded the average by 8·39 ins.

March.—Mean temperature was slightly above normal. A very wet month, rainfall exceeding the average by 13·75 ins. There were only five days without rain.

April.—A normal month. The strongest gust of wind recorded during the year occurred on the 14th at 2.42 p.m. when the wind reached 40 m.p.h., force 8.

May.—A very wet month with temperature slightly below normal. Rain fell on 25 days totalling 20·92 ins., an excess of 10·73 ins. on the average. There were nineteen sunless days.

June.—A fine month. Rainfall was 3·35 ins. less than normal, while mean temperature was slightly in excess.

July.—A wet humid month for the time of the year. Temperature was normal whilst rainfall was 4·49 ins. in excess of normal. During the heavy fall of rain on the 9th, 1·72 ins. fell in one hour, between 4 and 5 p.m.

August.—Mainly dry and warm. Most of the rainfall for the month fell on the 8th, the total for the month being 2·79 ins. below the average. Mean temperature was 1·2° F. above the average.

September.—A normal month generally, temperature showing a slight decrease compared with the average and rainfall an increase of 2·21 ins.

October.—Rainfall, pressure, and temperature all exceeded the averages. The first twenty days were fine and pleasant, but the remainder of the month was exceptionally wet. An unusually heavy fall of rain occurred on the 21st, when 2·45 ins. of rain fell in 37 minutes.

November.—A fine and dry summer month, rainfall being 4·56 ins. less than the average. Most of the month's rainfall fell on the nights of the 12th to the 15th.

December.—A fine and pleasant summer month. Mean temperature was 1° F. above the average. Rainfall was less than the average to the extent of 6·40 ins. There were fifteen days in the month on which the amount of bright sunshine exceeded 10 hours.

General.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., administered the Government throughout the year.

Among the New Year Honours a Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred on Mr. A. W. Seymour, Colonial Secretary.

Among the Birthday Honours the rank of Knight Bachelor was bestowed upon His Honour Captain Sir Maxwell Maxwell-Anderson, C.B.E., K.C., R.N. (Retd.), Chief Justice; Mr. N. B. Casey, Superintendent of Prisons, was awarded the distinction of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and a similar honour was awarded to Sowani Puamau, Native Medical Practitioner.

The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1934, was £261,165, the largest in the history of the Colony. In addition, the Colony possesses the following reserves—Immigration Fund Proceeds Account, £140,000, and a Reserve Fund, £110,000. The finances of the Colony are in a sound state.

At the beginning of the year the new Fiji coinage was issued, silver coin of the denominations 2s., 1s., and 6d., and copper-nickel coin, 1d. and ½d. There was also a new issue of Fiji Currency notes of values £20, £10, £5, £1, 10s. and 5s.

Increased interest was taken overseas in gold mining activities in Fiji. The two principal finds, one at Tavua (Viti Levu) and the other at Yanawai (Vanua Levu) have been proved and mining has commenced.

The development of road communication on Viti Levu was continued, and a proposal to complete the circuminsular road approved.

At the end of the year the Rockefeller Foundation donated a sum of £2,200 towards the cost of a new pathological laboratory at the Colonial War Memorial hospital in Suva.

Sessions of the Legislative Council were held in March, June, and October.

APPENDIX.

List of Publications which are of General Interest.

Title.	*Publisher or Agents.*	*Price.*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.)	6s.
Viti. By Berthold Seeman ...	Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London. 1862	10s.
King and People of Fiji. By Rev. J. Waterhouse.	Wesleyan Conference Office. 1866	
Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904...	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson ...	Heineman, London. 1905	25s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922 ...	21s.
Journal of William Lockerby ...	Hakluyt Society, Cambridge University Press. 1925	
Journal of Thomas Williams. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 2 vols. 1931	
Fiji and Fijians, 1835-1856. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London	25s.
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Murray, London. 1933 ...	15s.

The following official publications can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W. 1, or from the Government Printer, Suva.

The Colony of Fiji—1874-1931. Lib. edition. 6s. Mag. edition. 4s.

Annual Blue Book, 1934. 5s.

Census Report, 1921. 5s.

Forests of the Colony of Fiji—Report by Mr. R. A. Sykes (without maps). 2s.

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, 1934. 2s.

Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture, 1934. 1s.

The Agricultural Journal, published half-yearly or more frequently if required, is obtainable from the Director of Agriculture, Suva. 1s. per copy.

Postage is charged extra on all official publications.

A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—1874-1931."

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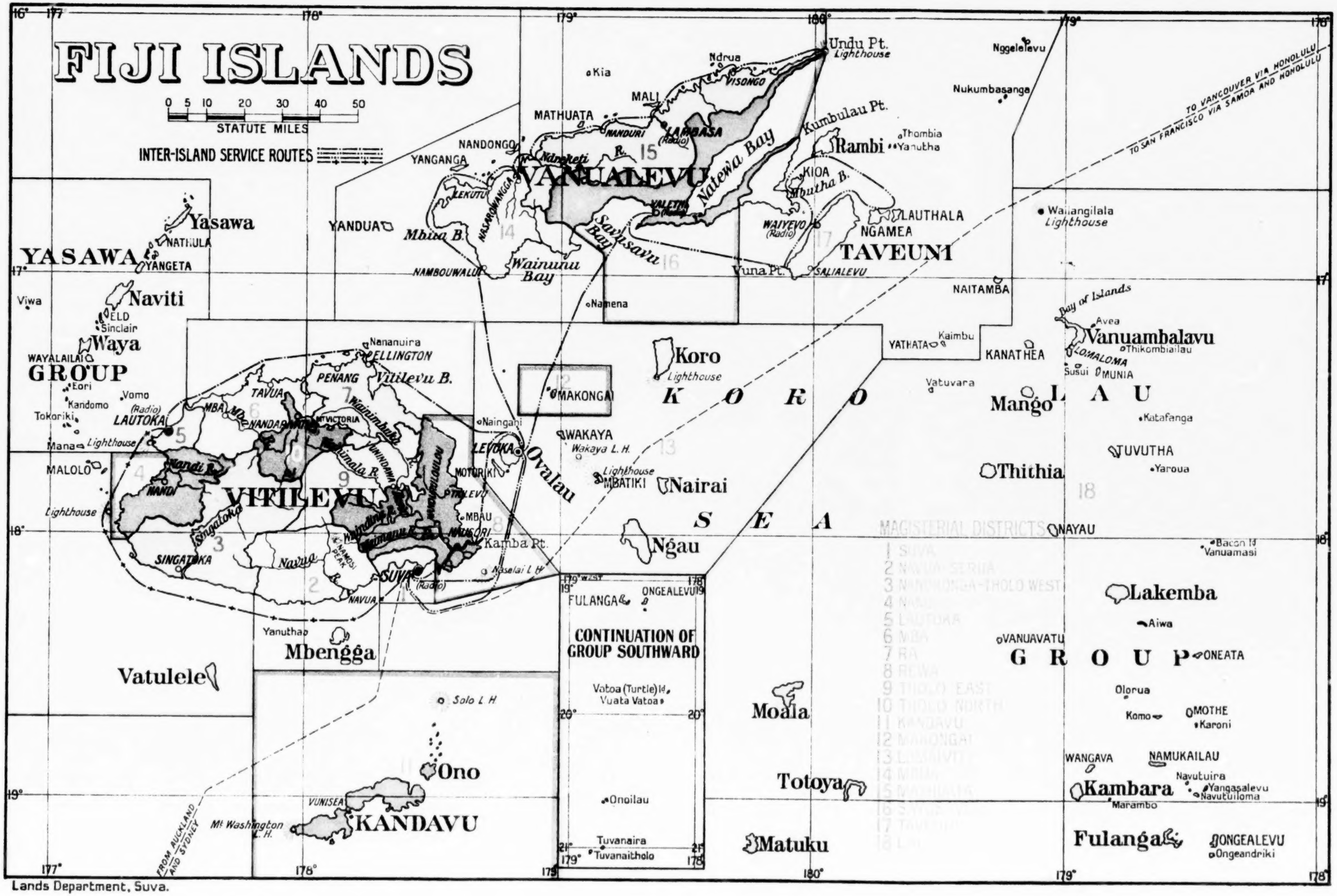
FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
STATUTE MILES
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
16° 177° 178° 179° 180° 179° 178°
17° 18° 19° 20° 21°
VANUALEVU
Undu Pt. Lighthouse
Ndrua
VISONGO
Kia
MALI
MATHUATA
NANDURI
LAMBASA (Radio)
Kumbulau Pt.
Natewa Bay
NANDONGO
Ndreketi R.
15
YANGANGA
LEKUTU
NASAWANGGA
Mbua B.
14
Wainunu Bay
NAMBOUWALU
Savusavu Bay
VALETHI
16
Namena
Nggelelevu
Nukumbasanga
Thombia
Yanutha
Rambi
KIOA
Mbutha B.
WAIYEVO (Radio)
17
LAUTHALA
NGAMEA
TAVEUNI
Vuna Pt.
SALIALEVU
NAITAMBA
Wailangilala Lighthouse
TO VANCOUVER VIA HONOLULU
TO SAN FRANCISCO VIA SAMOA AND HONOLULU
YANDUA
Yasawa
NATHULA
YASAWA
YANGETA
Viwa
Naviti
ELD
Sinclair
Waya
WAYALAILAI
GROUP
Eori
Kandomo
Vomo
Tokoriki
(Radio) LAUTOKA
Mana
Lighthouse
MALOLO
Lighthouse
Nananuira
ELLINGTON
PENANG
Vitilevu B.
TAVUA
7
MBA
6
NANDARIVATU
MT VICTORIA
Wainimbuka
Rewa R.
Singatoka
5
4
NANDI
Nandi B.
VITILEVU
8
10
9
SINGATOKA
3
NAMOSI PEAK
Navua
2
NAVUA
SUVA (Radio)
1
MOTURIKI
MBAU
NAUSORI
Kamba Pt.
Naselai L.H.
Naingani
LEVUKA
Ovalau
12
MAKONGAI
WAKAYA
Wakaya L.H.
Lighthouse
MBATIKI
13
Nairai
Koro
Lighthouse
K O R O
S E A
Ngau
Yanutha
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H.
11
Ono
VUNISEA
Mt Washington L.H.
KANDAVU
FROM AUCKLAND AND SYDNEY
CONTINUATION OF GROUP SOUTHWARD
FULANGA
ONGEALEVU
Vatoa (Turtle) Id.
Vuata Vatoa
Onoilau
Tuvanaira
Tuvanaitholo
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
YATHATA
Kaimbu
KANATHEA
Vatuvara
Bay of Islands
Avea
Vanuambalavu
Thikombiailau
LOMALOMA
Susui
MUNIA
Mango
L A U
Katafanga
TUVUTHA
Yaroua
Thithia
18
NAYAU
Bacon Id
Vuanuamasi
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
1 SUVA
2 NAVUA-SERUA
3 NANDRONGA-THOLO WEST
4 NANDI
5 LAUTOKA
6 MBA
7 RA
8 REWA
9 THOLO EAST
10 THOLO NORTH
11 KANDAVU
12 MAKONGAI
13 LOMAIVITI
14 MBUA
15 MATHUATA
16 SAVUSAVU
17 TAVEUNI
18 LAU
Lakemba
Aiwa
VANUAVATU
G R O U P
ONEATA
Olorua
Komo
MOTHE
Karoni
WANGAVA
NAMUKAILAU
Kambara
Navutuira
Yangasalevu
Navutuiloma
Marambo
Fulanga
ONGEALEVU
Ongeandriki

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Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 8*d*.)

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).

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Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 7*d*.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s*. 6*d*. (2*s*. 8*d*.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 1*d*.).

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MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s*. 6*d*. (4*s*. 10*d*.).

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BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 2*d*.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s*. (3*s*. 3*d*.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s*. (2*s*. 3*d*.).

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FIJI, 1935

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji, which is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean, is composed of a group of some 250 islands, which lie between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east. Only about 80 of these islands are inhabited. The largest island is Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanua Levu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kandavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, which is situated on the south-east side of Viti Levu, is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. Fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called " soapstone ") and limestones are extensively found on Viti Levu. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nambukelevu, on Kandavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Viti Levu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korombasambasanga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanua Levu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate is cool for the tropics, and the country is remarkably free from zymotic and endemic diseases. The malarial mosquito is absent.

The highest temperature in the shade at Suva in 1935 was 94 degrees on 15th February, and the lowest 63 degrees on 22nd September. The total rainfall at Suva was 163·62 inches. The average annual rainfall is 118·61 inches. There is a great variety of temperature and climate to be found in the Group. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, hurricanes and cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of a voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef-strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Undu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of Vatoa, one of the most southerly islands in the Group, and the neighbouring waters in 1774, and Bligh, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of 39 islands, including the principal island of Viti Levu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive, though somewhat inaccurate, chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work "Discoverers of the Fiji Islands" (see Appendix).

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Mbau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Mbau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman, named Conner, attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Mbau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanua Levu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter*, of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakemba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Thakaundrove ; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Mbau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Mbauans, who, by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Mbau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Mbau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Thakombau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people ; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Thakombau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Thakombau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Thakombau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required ", was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858 ". The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton caused by the American Civil War led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Mbauan Chief, Thakombau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and subsequently the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands made by the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Thakombau, the Chief of Mbau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Group, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929, as amended by Letters Patent of the 26th November, 1930, 24th March, 1932, and 19th July, 1935. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, 13 nominated members, six European elected members, three native members, and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by male persons of European descent, who are British subjects, who can read, write, and speak the English language, and who are possessed of a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of electors of the Indian members are that they must be male British subjects, of Indian descent, and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

The administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka was transferred, by Ordinance No. 15 of 1935, from elected Councils to Nominated Boards.

Levuka has now been proclaimed a Township under the Townships Ordinance of 1928 with effect from 1st July, 1935.

The Towns Ordinance was passed in December, 1935, and provides for the appointment of a Suva Town Board, to consist of seven official members, two European unofficial members, two Fijian unofficial members, and two Indian unofficial members, all of whom are to be nominated by the Governor.

The Town Board is responsible for the administration of the town of Suva, having jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter houses, traffic regulations, and building construction. The Board levies rates and also collects licence fees from businesses carried on within the town. The electricity supply of Suva is under the management of the Town Board.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are three proclaimed townships in the Colony, Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, Nausori in the district of Rewa, and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1935, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the Chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Mbau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Mbauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of approximately 2,500, an entirely different language is spoken which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number over 83,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of approximately 1,500 speaks Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population of Fiji on the 31st December, 1935, was as follows :—

> Europeans, 4,938; Half-castes, 3,846; Fijians, 99,953; Polynesians, 1,982; Indians, 85,892; Rotumans, 2,561; Chinese, 1,486; others, 1,394; making a total population of 202,052. Of this total, Fijians comprised 49·47 per cent., Indians 42·51 per cent., and Europeans 2·45 per cent. The estimated population shows an increase of 44,786 since the census of 1921, or an aggregate rate of increase of 28·48 per cent. The European population shows an increase, being 175 more than the estimated total for 1934.

On the 31st December, 1935, it was estimated that there were 27·18 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population is estimated at ·34 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population is 178·43 to the square mile.

There were 7,330 births registered during the year, which is an increase of 134 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1928 to 1935 :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Europeans	17·42	19·88	16·94	17·20	16·04	16·03	8·82	12·56
Half-castes	32·56	35·96	30·30	43·82	38·61	39·88	24·21	42·12
Fijians	33·36	31·91	36·43	35·34	34·32	35·10	37·52	36·53
Rotumans	52·21	50·75	54·91	46·95	39·47	50·38	36·83	51·54
Indians	34·90	34·86	36·02	33·45	38·44	38·67	37·19	37·37

The Rotuman and Indian birth-rates show an increase, and the Fijian birth-rate a decrease on the previous year.

There were 3,091 deaths registered during the year, which is 37 more than in 1934. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1928 to 1935 :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Europeans	7·62	8·46	9·45	9·09	6·79	8·74	6·93	6·89
Half-castes	9·39	9·44	14·70	11·03	9·86	9·01	9·15	8·53
Fijians	24·95	24·66	31·24	22·22	17·88	17·72	19·78	21·79
Rotumans	51·77	48·10	27·03	14·54	19·12	24·99	46·04	26·94
Indians	10·80	9·06	12·30	10·19	8·40	11·37	10·15	8·10

The deaths under one year per thousand births were :—Europeans 32·26; Half-castes 49·38; Fijians 126·51; Indians 63·24; Rotumans 68·11; Total 95·09.

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1928 to 1935 :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Europeans	47	46	33	38	32	27	32	32
Half-castes	41	28	21	18	23	40	33	37
Fijians	906	973	744	1,085	766	833	778	838
Rotumans	11	27	15	29	25	26	16	28
Indians	276	879	1,926	954	911	1,071	1,038	921

The marriage-rates per thousand of the population were :—Europeans 6·48; Half-castes 9·62; Fijians 8·38; Indians 10·72; Rotumans 10·93; Total 9·26.

A return of the population and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total	Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.	Population to the square mile.	Persons employed in			Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.				Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial.	Number	Rate per 1,000.		Number	Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.																
Europeans—																
Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—	3,878	—	0·52	412	379	1,905	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	14	23	7	—	—											
Half-castes—																
Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,304	2,781	—	0·37	144	395	583	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	—	—	—	29	23											
Fijians ...	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	84,475	—	11·37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—	—	—	—
Indians ...	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	60,634	—	8·17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—	—	—	—
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,271	293	1,564	—	0·21	335	501	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	2,235	—	0·30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese ...	—	—	—	845	65	910	—	0·12	129	92	399	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	—	—	—	431	358	789	—	0·10	—	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266	—	21·16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1935.																
Europeans	—	2,548	2,390	—	—	4,938	—	0·66	—	—	—	62	12·56	32	34	6·89
Half-castes	—	—	—	1,987	1,859	3,846	—	0·52	—	—	—	162	42·12	37	33	8·53
Fijians ...	—	—	—	51,184	48,769	99,953	—	13·44	—	—	—	3,652	36·53	838	2,178	21·79
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,321	661	1,982	—	0·27	—	—	—	54	27·25	8	44	22·20
Indians ...	—	—	—	50,011	35,881	85,892	—	11·55	—	—	—	3,210	37·37	921	716	8·10
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,290	1,271	2,561	—	0·34‡	—	—	—	132	51·54	28	69	26·94
Chinese ...	—	—	—	1,335	151	1,486	—	0·20	—	—	—	23	15·49	—	10	6·73
Others ...	—	—	—	892	502	1,394	—	0·19	—	—	—	35	25·11	8	7	5·74
Totals	—	2,548	2,390	108,020	89,094	202,052	—	27·18	—	—	—	7,330	36·28	1,872	3,091	15·30

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance, 1888, and their offspring.

‡ Includes Fiji with the island of Rotuma. The actual population to a square mile in the island of Rotuma is 178·43.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the Police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) and of Indian and Polynesian immigrants is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1935:—

EMIGRATION—1935.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,040	4,938	41·3
Indians	82	85,892	·09
Chinese	76	1,486	5·1
Pacific Islanders ...	52	104,496	·049
Others	6	1,394	·04

IMMIGRATION—1935.

Class.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,327	4,938	47·1
Indians	71	85,892	·08
Chinese	83	1,486	5·6
Pacific Islanders ...	103	104,496	·09
Others...	57	1,394	4·08

The above figures include a large number of tourists who stay for short periods.

IV.—HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of 16 Medical Officers under the direct control of the Director of Medical Services. A qualified pathologist has charge of a laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. Suva, Lautoka and Levuka are first ports of entry for overseas shipping, but the first named is the only port equipped for the fumigation of shipping against rats and mosquitoes. The Port health staff at Suva consists of the Medical Officer of Health, two qualified European Inspectors, one Fijian and two Indian, locally qualified, sanitary inspectors, and one rat-catcher. During the year, pratique was granted to 149 vessels (registered net tonnage, 840,226) entering the port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 3,957 passengers and 2,501 members of crews and labourers. In the town of Suva the Medical Officer of Health acts in an advisory capacity on health matters to the Municipal Council which employs two European Sanitary Inspectors to look after the sanitation of the town, the senior inspector being also sewerage engineer.

In the country districts the control of health and sanitation is in the hands of nine District Medical Officers, 56 Native Medical Practitioners, and six Indian Medical Practitioners. There is also one European Sanitary Inspector, who is at present seconded to the Rockefeller Foundation as officer in charge of the soil sanitation campaign, and six Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

A very complete system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 142 beds, 30 cots, an operating theatre and an X-ray plant, and caters for all classes of the community. During the year, 2,713 persons were admitted, the daily average number of in-patients being 118·07. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The New Zealand Registration Board accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examination. The medical and nursing staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron, an Assistant Matron, five trained Sisters, and 13 European probationer Nurses. In addition there are 21 native nurses in training. The senior students of the Central Native Medical School act as male dressers and do periods of training in the dispensary, post-mortem theatre, and eye wards. The Medical Superintendent is Director of Clinical Studies.

The Methodist Mission conducts a hospital for Indian women at Mba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Mba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are 14 provincial hospitals and some 29 dispensaries in the Colony, where Fijians and Indians may obtain free medical treatment.

The former Fiji Medical School (1888 to 1928) at which only a limited number of Fijian students were trained in the vernacular was, in 1928, replaced by the Central Medical School, which receives native medical students from the various island groups in the South Pacific.

The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and equipment of the school buildings, and in 1935 has given a further sum of £3,700 towards the cost of erection of a Pathological Laboratory to be attached to the school.

The teaching staff now consists of a whole-time Principal with 14 honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students, who are all boarders. include 17 Fijians, two Indians, five Samoans, four

Tongans, five Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, four Solomon Islanders, three Cook Islanders, and one each from the New Hebrides and Nauru Island, making a total of 42 on 31st December.

The School is under the control of the Central Medical School Advisory Board with the Director of Medical Services as Chairman, and the Principal of the School acts also as Secretary to the Advisory Board. The syllabus of instruction now covers a period of four years, and is divided into three sections: the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology: the second section of one year for anatomy and physiology: and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, midwifery, etc. The students are known as junior students in the first two sections, and as senior students in the third or final section.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as native medical practitioners, and they are then given appointments in country districts, or are attached to a hospital under a European Medical Officer. A subordinate medical service has thus been created consisting of 56 native medical practitioners and six Indian medical practitioners. In addition, the Central Medical School has already turned out 28 similarly qualified native medical practitioners who are in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, and the British Solomon Islands.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of a Central Executive Committee of which the Secretary for Native Affairs is the present Chairman, has been firmly established in the Colony and since its inception in 1927 has progressed steadily. The Inspecting Medical Officer, during his tours of inspection, has done much to organize and establish Child Welfare Committees in the more remote parts of the Colony and has greatly stimulated native interest in the scheme. In practically every village Child Welfare Committees have been established, each of which is responsible to the Child Welfare worker in charge of the district. There are four trained European Nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by 14 specially trained native nurses. Infant mortality among Fijian children under the age of five years during the years 1933, 1934 and 1935 is as follows:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.
Under one month	88	99	99
Over one month, under one year	244	368	462
Over one year, under five years	174	290	358

The increase in infant death-rate is largely due to an epidemic of whooping cough.

Health and Sanitation.

Dysentery was prevalent, more particularly in the first six months of the year on the north coast of Viti Levu and in the Sigatoka Valley in the third quarter, otherwise the health of the Colony was good.

Infectious diseases.

Dysentery.—During the first and second quarters, 360 and 311 cases respectively were notified, chiefly of the Shiga variety. Clinically the type was less severe than that experienced in the epidemic of 1929-30, the general mortality rate being 8·84 per cent. A total of 984 cases were notified for the year. From specimens submitted to the Bacteriological Laboratory from cases in the Suva district the following results were obtained :—

Shiga	30	Sonne	1
Schmitz	8	Histolytica	7
Flexner	5	Negative	31

Typhoid.—One hundred and nine cases were reported for the Colony as compared with 196 and 58 in 1933 and 1934 : these included 13 cases for the Suva area. All cases bacteriologically positive proved to be typhosus infections—no endogenous case of a para-typhoid infection came to light.

(Epidemic) Dropsy.—Fifteen cases of dropsy occurred in the Suva Gaol; although the distribution of cases this year showed some concentration in the months of January-April these gaol cases are notably different in their epidemiological features to former seasonal outbreaks of dropsy among the Indian population and usually react readily to dietetic treatment.

Diphtheria.—Clinical diphtheria is not common. Twenty-four cases of sore throat, usually mild in degree, were reported with the presence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus in more or less pure culture : streptococcic (haemolytic) sore throats have been rather common.

Leprosy.—The problem of leprosy continues to be thoroughly dealt with in Fiji. On the island of Makongai there is a modern leper hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, and 14 European and 10 Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital and lepers are also received from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook and Gilbert Islands. The cost of the institution is borne by the various participating Administrations proportionately to the number of their patients. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by Nursing Sisters.

Admissions during 1935	184
Repatriation of Indians	1
Conditional discharges	35
Deaths	30
Number of patients at the end of 1935	575

Since 1911 there have been 1,947 admissions, 343 conditional discharges, 54 re-admissions (many of which have been on account of trophic ulceration rather than for reactivation of the disease) and 13 cases have been re-discharged.

Miscellaneous.

Drinking water.—Suva town and a portion of its rural area has a piped supply of first-rate quality whose intake is in the hills with no human habitation in the vicinity. It is tested at regular and sufficiently frequent intervals by the Government Chemist and Bacteriologist. In other parts the usual sources of rural supplies are tapped.

Food control and dairies.—Twenty-seven dairies were registered during the year within the rural district of Suva. These were inspected bi-monthly by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Central Board of Health and were maintained in a satisfactory condition, some minor defects being corrected on request.

Milk.—The milk supply is sampled by inspectors of the Central Board of Health. Two summonses for selling milk below standard resulted in convictions with fines of £5 and £6.

Tuberculin testing of cattle.—Of 744 cattle in registered dairy herds in the Suva district tuberculin tested by Government Veterinary officers, only four or 0·405 per cent. gave positive reactings. In total herds of 1,446 cattle, tuberculin tested, 86 or 5·94 per cent. gave positive reactions.

Slaughter-houses.—In the Suva district three slaughter-houses were registered during the year which were visited regularly. Of 4,477 carcases inspected, 119 (2·7 per cent.), including 101 bovines (4·1 per cent. of total bovines) and 11 pigs (1·3 per cent. of total porcines), were condemned as unfit for human consumption, tuberculosis being the chief cause of condemnation : in addition 1,466 organs, etc., were condemned for various reasons.

Restaurants and "Kava" saloons were inspected in detail quarterly prior to the issue of police permits.

Sanitation Campaign.

The campaign for the installation of latrines of the bore-hole type, which was instituted in 1928 under the combined administration of the Government and the Rockefeller Foundation, lapsed in the middle of the year. From this date the Government assumed sole responsibility for the continuation of this useful sanitary measure, 2,002 latrines of this type being installed in 1935. More attention is to be devoted to maintenance.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva the Municipal Council is the Local Authority for the area which it controls. The Medical Officer of Health, who is not a member of the Local Authority, attends its meetings in an advisory capacity. The sanitary duties in the urban area are carried out by the Council's two Sanitary Inspectors.

Food.—The Council's senior inspector has been appointed an inspector under the Pure Food Ordinance which facilitates the inspection of foodstuffs in the town area.

Infectious diseases continue to be dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Office staff whether cases occur in the urban or rural area.

Town-planning and Building Regulations.—The business part of the town of Suva is changing from a collection of temporary premises erected without much attention to future requirements; permanent buildings in concrete are rapidly springing up at the more important and strategic sites which call for careful town-planning and adequate building regulations if expensive mistakes are to be avoided. The laying down of improved and wider roads has done much to improve the appearance of parts of the business area and the widening of Thompson Street Bridge now facilitates traffic between port and town.

The European settlements at Vatawangga and Lami are proving popular and their boundaries are extending.

Roads.

The new transinsular road and the opening of the Suva-Singatoka section, expected next year, which will convert the transinsular into a circular road embracing the greater part of Viti Levu, should prove a distinct asset to the health of the community, providing as it does ready access to the higher and cooler parts of the island, as well as an attraction to tourists, enabling the latter to see the native in his natural environment.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.

The production of sugar is the principal industry of the Colony. The industry is conducted by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, which operates five mills, purchases all cane produced, and disposes of the sugar and by-products. Production is largely in the hands of the East Indians who farm small blocks on lease from the Company and from other land-owners, but Fijians are showing an increasing interest in the production of this crop. It is reported that 833 Fijians were engaged in cane growing during the year. Cultural and harvesting operations are supervised in an efficient manner by officials of the Company.

The Company maintains a trained staff for the direction of pest control and research, the control of disease in particular receiving attention during the year. New varieties of cane are introduced from time to time for trial under quarantine conditions.

The areas cultivated and the production of cane for the past three cropping seasons have been :—

	Area.	*Production.*
	acre.	tons.
1932–3	42,350	113,824
1933–4	44,712	104,985
1934–5	42,899	116,346

Exports of sugar and export values for the past three years are as follows :—

	Tons.	Value.
		£
1933	113,836	1,180,782
1934	103,863	1,069,049
1935	135,632	1,314,128

Copra.

The production of copra stands second to sugar in the industrial life of the Colony. Although the value of copra exported during 1935 amounted to only £220,478 compared with £1,314,128 for sugar, the former is of considerable importance as it is practically the sole means of livelihood of a large portion of the Fijian people, who produce approximately 60 per cent. of this export.

There is room for a considerable improvement in the quality of the copra produced, especially by the natives, and with this end in view the Department of Agriculture has designed and constructed a cheap type of hot air drier suitable for use on small native plantations. The gradual introduction of this type of drier, especially in the wet zones of the Colony, will, it is anticipated, effect considerable improvement in the quality of exports. It will, however, be some time before the people become imbued with the necessity for producing copra of the quality desired.

The drastic fall in copra values during the past few years has undoubtedly inflicted severe hardship on the European producers and most of them have experienced considerable difficulty in maintaining their estates. An appreciable increase in prices towards the end of 1934, which was maintained during 1935, materially relieved the position.

Exports and values of copra during the past three years have been :—

	Tons.	Value.
		£
1933	22,597	195,788
1934	23,526	127,941
1935	26,081	220,478

Copra is exported chiefly to the United Kingdom, North European and Australian ports by cargo steamers, under charter to commercial firms in Fiji, loadings being completed from nearby Pacific territories.

Losses due to the diseases of the coconut were materially reduced by the campaign conducted by the Coconut Committee which, for financial reasons, ceased to function at the end of 1934. Problems remaining to be tackled are the high percentage of premature nutfall and losses due to the depredations of rats.

Bananas.

The Dominion of New Zealand has been the principal market for bananas for the past 15 years. Formerly, large exports were made to the Commonwealth of Australia but the imposition of a tariff charge of 8s. 4d. per cental in 1921, in the interests of the Australian industry, caused the total loss of this important market to Fiji. Under the terms of the Ottawa agreement, however, provision was made for the admission of 40,000 centals of Fiji bananas at a reduced duty of 2s. 6d. per cental and it was confidently anticipated that Fiji would find a profitable market for 50,000 cases of this fruit per annum in the Commonwealth. Early shipments demonstrated, however, that charges such as sales tax, primage duty, etc., and the exchange discount which the shippers were required to bear rendered the trade unprofitable and the full quantity admitted at the reduced rate of duty has not been shipped. Considerable reductions have recently been made in the charges referred to, but the heavy production of Australian fruit, the tariff charge of 2s. 6d. per cental, and the heavy costs of freight, etc., still render profitable operations impossible.

For many years Fiji was almost the sole supplier of bananas to New Zealand and it was not until the disastrous fall in copra values occurred during the last few years, that other Southern Pacific territories became serious competitors in this market. The volume of exports of bananas to New Zealand from all the supplying territories in 1932 was so great in relation to the demands of the market that profitable trading became impossible and an agreement was reached between the Dominion and all the supplying territories whereby exports were restricted to quantities which would permit of profitable operations. The agreement reached, known as the quota system, commenced to operate in August, 1932, and has continued in operation since then without any alteration excepting that the Fiji and Tongan quantities were reduced from the beginning of 1935 so as to permit an increase in the allotment to the Mandated territory of Samoa which is administered by the New Zealand Government. The quota system, although imposing a restraint on trade which is not altogether popular with the producers in Fiji, principally Fijians, has undoubtedly had the effect of appreciating prices and rendering profitable trade possible.

The trial shipments of bananas to Canada, which were commenced at the end of 1934, were continued throughout the year with satisfactory results, exports amounting to 14,266 bunches and 349 cases. Handling, transport, loading and stowing methods have been improved considerably, and with the exception of a few bunches which have landed in a ripe condition the consignments have arrived at Vancouver in excellent condition. Unfortunately, the period of greatest production in Fiji, during the summer months, coincides with the severe Canadian winter when the demand for fruit is low. It is proposed, however, to arrange for the production of sufficient fruit during the Canadian summer to fill the limited cool storage accommodation available in the Canadian-Australian mail steamers which are the only means of transport to this market.

The exports, in bunches, of bananas from Fiji during the year and the markets in which they were disposed of are as follows :—

	Equivalent in Bunches.	*Value in £.*
New Zealand	270,949	59,143
Australia	16,411	3,732
Canada	15,767	3,988
Total ...	303,127	66,863

Exports for the last three years have been—

	Equivalent in Bunches.	*Value in £.*
1933	326,422	69,243
1934	324,494	67,845
1935	303,127	66,863

The exports to New Zealand and Australia are mainly in cases of fruit equivalent to two bunches per case.

The Fijians continue to be the principal producers of bananas, some 85·4 per cent. of the exports being supplied from areas cultivated by the Natives compared with 79 per cent. in 1934 and 64·3 per cent. in 1932.

The interests of the producers are safeguarded under comprehensive regulations made under the Fruit Export Ordinance, 1906, which provides for recognized packing centres where the fruit is purchased by the shippers for cash. The prices to be paid are fixed monthly by a Board, representative of the growers and buyers with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman. The prices fixed are based on realizations on the markets abroad and vary from time to time, but the Board endeavours to avoid violent fluctuations which are not understood by the growers. For the year under review the average price paid for native grown fruit was 38·35d. per case of approximately 85 lb. net compared with 36·7d. per case for 1934.

Citrus.

There are, as yet, no commercial citrus orchards in Fiji, consequently the fruit produced, especially the oranges, vary widely in quality. The whole of the production is from self sown trees in and about native towns and while some of the oranges have excellent characteristics, many of them are of such poor quality as to render them of little use except for the manufacture of preserves and cordials. The production of good quality budded stock is proceeding at the experimental stations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and it is proposed that, when distributions have been made and the production stage has been reached, the existing trees should be destroyed. It is unlikely that Fiji oranges will be able to compete with the Australian, Jamaican and American products until the better quality fruit is available.

Fiji mandarins, on the other hand, are of excellent quality and it is proposed to concentrate on the export of this variety of citrus for the next few years.

The export season for the year under review commenced in February and terminated in May, the exports amounting to 5,795 cases of mandarins and 2,997 cases oranges.

With a view of eliminating unnecessary competition and to reducing internal transport and other costs the citrus buyers were formed into a voluntary association for the purchase and delivery of the fruit to the citrus shed at Suva. The grading, wrapping and packing of the fruit was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, at the cost of the shippers, as heretofore.

Rice.

Drought during the planting season and early growing stages, and abundant rain during harvest restricted the production of padi with the result that prices appreciated considerably and it was necessary to import 1,202 tons of rice compared with 280 tons for the previous year.

The demand for rice is steadily increasing as the Fijians are becoming accustomed to the use of this food and there should be a steadily expanding local market for the product. East Indians are the principal producers but independent Fijian farmers are entering the industry in increasing numbers. The Government formerly conducted a large mill at Suva and purchased all padi of good quality offered for sale. The operation of the undertaking became uneconomic owing to the establishment of a number of small mills throughout the producing areas and the mill was closed down at the end of 1933.

While the establishment of the small mills adjacent to cultivations has resulted in considerable savings in transportation costs there is little doubt that in many instances owing to unremedied mechanical faults, lack of proper care in drying the padi, and the mixture of varieties, heavy losses of rice are incurred in the milling process. Furthermore, small mills have the disadvantage that the hulling and polishing processes are carried out as one operation with the result that the mixing of hulls and bran considerably depreciates the value of the latter.

As padi is cultivated in small plots throughout the Group it is impossible to give a reliable estimate of production, but it is considered that more than 10,000 acres are planted with rice annually, which is largely retained by the cultivators for hand-milling for their own use and for sale to their neighbours.

Cotton.

Climatically the year was not suitable for cotton with the result that the crop was poor, only 42,860 lb. of seed cotton being purchased at an average value of 2·4d. per lb. It is, however, interesting to record that, in spite of the poor season, the Sea-island lint was valued by the British Cotton Growing Association at 17d. per lb., the Backcross at 10d. per lb., values which compare favourably with those paid at the same time for West Indian Sea-island and fully good fair Egyptian Sakel lint. The Backcross is a hybrid cotton developed to suit special conditions in Fiji and efforts to fix standards for this type by single plant selections of desirable characteristics are being continued.

For the 1935-6 season efforts were made to interest Fijian and Indian growers in Sea-island cotton by offering to purchase fair average quality seed-cotton at fixed prices and it is hoped that some 150 bales may be produced. Similar efforts were made in respect of the Backcross of which a crop of 150 to 200 bales is anticipated.

Tobacco.

This crop is grown in considerable quantity in numerous very small plots for local consumption and for trading purposes amongst natives and Indians, and experiments which have been in operation at Singatoka for some years definitely indicate that, with proper attention to methods of cultivation, harvesting and curing, good tobacco of cigar filler type can be grown successfully. Insufficient attention has as yet been given to harvesting and to curing methods which require more suitable accommodation and supervision than has been available, and some improvements in these respects were made during last season while additional amenities are planned for the future.

A report on one of a number of samples sent to London indicates that there is a potential market at a fair price provided that the type can be produced in sufficient quantities and this avenue is being explored. In addition, numerous trials indicate that native tobacco can be manufactured into " stick " for sale locally as well as in adjacent islands and over 1,000 lb. of tobacco were sold in this form, experimentally, during last year.

Unfortunately, this potential industry is temporarily hampered by lack of machinery and by lack of stocks of suitable tobacco, but both these factors can be remedied in time when this industry should provide considerable scope for expansion.

Recently, the manufacture and sale of cigars was undertaken experimentally and no difficulty was found in selling all the cigars produced (over 6,000) locally at reasonable prices, although the leaf used in their manufacture had been insufficiently matured. Arrangements are now in progress for the better curing and maturation of leaf, especially wrapper leaf, with a view to effecting improvements in the quality of the cigars and also for the purpose of making cheroots, somewhat lighter than the cigars previously made, and which can readily be sold locally.

In addition, seeds of new types of tobacco of possible local utility have been obtained for trial and one officer on leave was recently deputed to gain information of methods employed in Canada in tobacco preparation, curing, grading, and maturing.

Pineapples.

Owing to strong Australian competition in the New Zealand market the export of fresh pineapples amounted to only 986 cases.

The pineapple canning industry has big possibilities, but the unfortunate failure of two companies, due to factors other than the suitability of the Colony for the production of choice quality fruit, has had a discouraging effect on potential investors. There appears, however, to be possibilities of developing an important export trade in this commodity provided that sufficient capital and proper management are available.

Subsidiary crops for export.

New Zealand is the only market for subsidiary crops with the exception of whole coconuts, Mauritius bean, (*Stizolobium atterimum*), tomatoes and tobacco which find markets elsewhere. The Dominion demand is small and it is unlikely that the export trade in the products referred to hereunder will be capable of considerable expansion unless additional markets can be found, a matter of some difficulty in view of the geographical situation of the Colony.

Kumalas (*Sweet Potatoes*).—Kumalas for export are grown principally by Chinese market gardeners situated close to Suva, but Fijians further afield are becoming interested in the crop. Close examination of exports are necessary as kumalas are attacked by a weevil, the presence of which in consignments is followed by condemnation by the Plant Health Authorities in New Zealand. A total of 5,485 sacks were disposed of in the New Zealand market in 1935 at an average value of £14 per ton. Profitable export trading is restricted to the months of August-December, when the market is bare of home-grown kumalas. Large quantities are produced by Fijians and others for local consumption.

Pawpaws, granadillas and taro.—These are comparatively new items in the list of minor products exported. Pawpaws and granadillas of the finest quality are produced without difficulty in the Colony and the local consumption, especially of the former, assumes considerable proportions. The development of a profitable export trade in these products is attended with difficulty as the demand is as yet small, and in the case of the former, heavy losses in the material occur during transportation to the market. Granadillas suffer from the attacks of fruit flies and as isolation in fly-proof chambers after cutting is impracticable owing to the rapid deterioration of the fruit, all granadillas intended for export are required to be bagged on the vines for at least two weeks prior to export. Taro (*Colocasia antiquorum*) is one of the staple foods of the Fijians, practically every householder cultivating a small area for use of himself and his family. It is only during the year under review that small shipments were made to New Zealand and, while remunerative prices were received for small consignments, experience showed that values receded considerably in an over-supplied market. A stronger demand should become apparent when the vegetable has become better known.

Cucumbers, Melons and Pumpkins.—These products are produced in excellent quality and find profitable markets in New Zealand during the seasons. Chinese market gardeners situated near Suva are the principal producers.

Tomatoes.—A comparatively large trade was formerly done with Australia in tomatoes but declining prices in recent years have reduced the exports considerably—over 11,000 boxes of tomatoes were exported in 1931.

Coconuts.—Small exports to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada amounting in all to 1,640 sacks were made during the year, but the margin of profit is too small to prove attractive.

Mauritius Beans.—This legume is largely used as a cover crop in the sugar industry and, formerly, substantial exports of seed were made to Queensland for the same purpose. The use of other leguminous plants and a diversion of the trade from Fiji to New Guinea has curtailed export in recent years. All shipments are subjected to germination tests prior to export, a 60 per cent. germination being required to comply with the Fruit Export Ordinance. Exports during the year amounted to 480 sacks.

Products consumed locally.

Maize.—Formerly the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, purchased large quantities of maize under contracts with Indian growers but, with the development of tenant farming in the sugar industry, the demand for maize diminished considerably and growers now experience difficulty in disposing of their crops during the season. There is still, however, a considerable demand for maize, but the lack of organization, inevitable under existing conditions under which a large number of Indian and Fijian small producers market their crops independently, has tended to restrict demands owing to the uncertainty of supplies and the wide fluctuations in price during portions of the year. The steps taken by the Government to provide an organization for storage and sale of this and other products at stable prices is referred to in the section of this report dealing with marketing.

An uncertain market for maize exists in New Zealand, but it will be necessary to perfect an organization for drying and holding the grain free from insect attacks before any advantage can be taken of the spasmodic demands of the Dominion.

The use of maize flour in the place of sharps is also receiving attention.

Potatoes.—Excellent quality potatoes are produced in a number of areas, especially on the Singatoka River, but the necessity for procuring fresh seed from abroad annually is an item of considerable expense which tends to limit production. That there is room for considerable expansion of production is evidenced by the fact that 1,172 tons of potatoes valued at £8,729 were imported during the year.

Kava (Piper methysticum).—The ground root of this plant mixed with water is used as a beverage throughout the South Seas and large quantities are produced for consumption within the Colony. During recent years Indians and Chinese have planted large areas but attacks of a wild disease have caused severe losses in the areas near to Suva. Formerly, the use of this beverage was restricted to native chiefs but it is now consumed by practically all the Fijians and a large number of Indians.

Indian foodstuffs.—Rice, beans, peas, lentils, maize, bringall, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, tumeric, ground nuts, mango, guava, melons, potatoes, eschelots, as well as many other foodstuffs of lesser importance, are all grown in Fiji by the Indians. Large quantities are, however, imported more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage the Indians to grow and prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian population is tending to include more and more of the Fijians' foodstuffs in their diet; similarly the Fijian is developing a taste for Indian curry foods and rice.

European vegetables, i.e., cabbage, beans, peas, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins, marrows. Quite a wide range of European vegetables grow well in all parts of the Colony. Probably a great deal more care is required to raise them successfully than would be the case in more temperate zones. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Marketing.

As already indicated in this section of the report producers of the crops of major importance have a ready market for their products. The cultivators of sugar-cane have a permanent market for their crops at a fixed price provided that their areas are approved by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, as suitable for cane cultivation and for economical transportation to a mill. Copra has not such a stable value as sugar-cane but, provided that quality is satisfactory, the producer is able to dispose of his production within his district. Merchants conduct branch stores throughout the Group at which the purchase of copra forms a regular part of the business conducted and there are a number of small Chinese businesses throughout the copra districts which purchase or exchange for goods the production of the plantations in the form of dried copra, green copra or whole coconuts. The small Native grower is therefore able to dispose of his crop without the creation of an organization for the supply of bags, transport to a market, etc. The cultivation of bananas is restricted to certain districts in which an organization, under Government supervision, arranges for the purchase of the fruit at prescribed centres. Cotton is purchased by the Government at fixed prices at centres near the ginneries.

Hitherto, there has been no organization for the marketing of minor products for which there is a demand locally and abroad with the result that the production of many crops suitable for small holders has been neglected.

The merchant houses and small storekeepers who provide the means of disposal for copra are not interested to any extent in products such as native vegetables, maize, Mauritius beans, tobacco, kumalas and padi with the consequence that those Fijians and Indians who are remote from centres of European settlement experience considerable difficulty and incur heavy expenditure in the disposal of the fruits of their labour. The disposal of small quantities of produce by a large number of individuals acting independently of each other undoubtedly increases the costs of marketing with the consequence that profits are low, production is restricted, and the local demand is reduced by the high prices rendered necessary by inordinately high costs of disposal. Exports are affected also in that the products cannot be sold in competition with those of other tropical countries.

Such a form of marketing has the added disadvantage of irregularity of supply which tends further to reduce local consumption.

The provision of an organization for the marketing of small quantities of produce from widely scattered areas is a matter of some difficulty but the Department of Agriculture has already taken steps to assist producers to dispose of certain of their minor products. It will take some time to perfect an organization for the whole of the Group and action is being confined for the present to the principal island, Viti Levu. It is anticipated that storage accommodation will be available in 1936 where non-perishable products may be held and disposed of on behalf of the owners at stable prices throughout the year. It is proposed that containers should be supplied to the producers, transport arranged and paid for and the net proceeds, on sales being completed, paid to the growers less a small charge for commission.

There are many minor products which can be produced in abundance in the Colony and for which a considerable local sale should be possible provided that prices are reasonable and it is hoped that the organization referred to above will, in time, provide the means of bridging the gap between the producer and the consumer at a cost which will permit of sales at prices attractive to both parties.

Live Stock.

Fiji being largely an agricultural Colony livestock plays an important role in its economic life. Horses and bullocks perform for the farming community practically the whole of the traction required; the milking cow produces milk, butter and ghee for the majority of the inhabitants; and beef cattle, goats and pigs and poultry supply the greatest part of the meat and eggs supply for the Colony.

The equine population of the Colony is now estimated at over 14,000, the majority of which are used for farming pursuits. The number of cattle is estimated at close on 70,000. Goats of which there are approximately 20,000 are used amongst the Indian community as a source of meat supply. The sheep breeding industry has not been successfully established locally, and most of the mutton is imported either on the hoof or frozen. The number of live sheep imported for food purposes during the year was 1,419.

Most of the pork in the local meat trade is now supplied locally. A large piggery is conducted by the Fiji Pastoral Company as an adjunct to their dairying industry, while many smaller dairymen have also established piggeries. In the cane-growing districts, piggeries are run in conjunction with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's butcheries.

Bacon curing has not yet been attempted in the Colony although there is a considerable bacon and ham consumption. The number of live pigs imported during the year was 186, of which 18 were for breeding purposes.

Dairying.

The protection by import duty of 4d. a lb. on Empire butter and 8d. a lb. on foreign butter remained in operation during 1935. The imposition of an increased duty on edible ghee substitutes has led to an increased prosperity in the dairying industry. Prior to 1934 a considerable portion of the butter manufactured was exported. During 1935 a large portion of the butter fat produced was made into ghee and sold locally.

The following figures relate to butter manufacture by the Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company of Fiji and the Fiji Pastoral Company Limited, the two major dairying companies operating in the Colony.

Year.	*Butter manufactured.* lb.	*Sold locally.* lb.	*Exported.* lb.	*Converted into Ghee.* lb.
1930	440,277	339,141	101,136	—
1931	490,055	309,511	180,544	—
1932	543,815	272,663	271,152	—
1933	544,375	388,631	205,744	17,920
1934	560,649	268,383	146,384	145,882
1935	608,201	347,513	27,736	232,952

There are also large quantities of ghee, more or less pure, as well as that admittedly adulterated (mainly with coconut oil) manufactured by the Indians and disposed of among themselves.

Milk for human consumption constitutes a material portion of the dairying industry. At the various sugar mill centres dairies are owned and operated by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited to provide cheap, reasonably pure, milk. At other country centres private dairies or individuals supply the needs of the community. Suva and its environs is well cared for as to milk supply and the distribution thereof.

A compulsory tuberculin test is applied to all registered dairy herds in the Suva district and a few registered herds outside this area are voluntarily subjected to the test. Regular visits of inspection are made by Veterinary Officers and Sanitary Inspectors to registered dairies.

One of the larger dairy companies operating in the vicinity of Suva continued the distribution of pasteurized milk in sealed bottles. This modern hygienic method of milk handling has many desirable features especially in a tropical town such as Suva.

Poultry.

Fowls and ducks are found in all parts of the Colony and turkeys do well in certain parts. The best strains of pure bred Orpington, Leghorn, Rhode Island Red and Indian Game have been imported from time to time and maintained. There are a number of commercial poultry farms, but a fair portion of the local supply comes from small Indian farmers whose stock is mostly of the "barnyard" type. The price of eggs ranged from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. per dozen wholesale.

Table birds are not bred as such, but a large number of fowls, ducks and a limited number of turkeys are disposed of for consumption. Prices for live birds are: fowls 3s. 6d. to 5s. and ducks 5s. to 6s. each.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This phase of agricultural education is controlled by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native, and Indian Departments and a representative of the Methodist Mission. For the purpose of this description it may be divided into two main spheres, namely primary instruction and adult instruction.

PRIMARY INSTRUCTION.

The work under this heading may be briefly described as the operation of the agricultural bias which it is intended to give to certain portions of the curriculum of existing schools. This training is more or less confined to nature study lessons and work in school gardens. Its widespread application is handicapped by want of sufficient qualified instructors, but some centres have made excellent progress. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools, but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and the Teachers' Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and the training of students at the Government Experimental Stations further still. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as Native Field Instructors of the Agricultural Department for work mainly amongst the adult population.

ADULT INSTRUCTION.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian agricultural community is far ahead of the Fijian in modern agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugarcane and since the adoption of the tenant farmer system by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, the individual comes under the direct supervision of the trained officers of that Company. In these circumstances Government's restricted financial resources have been directed towards the progress of the more backward Fijian to a comparative equality with the Indian in agricultural practice. Efforts are in operation to settle Fijians on the land in individual and small communal settlements in selected areas where they can be supervised by officers of the Department of Agriculture and assisted with the marketing of their produce. While considerable progress has been made in this direction, the difficulties are great, owing to the roving disposition of the Fijian, his ease of livelihood, and the smallness of the population.

Mining.

A remarkable increase in the prospecting activity in the Colony occurred during 1935. Many prospecting companies and syndicates were formed in Australia and there was somewhat of a rush to Fiji on the part of mining engineers and promoters to secure areas or options over areas. Fifty-nine prospecting licences aggregating 19,107 acres were issued during the year, 35 being in the Tavua Mining Area, eight in the Yanawai Mining Area, and 16 elsewhere in the Colony. By the end of the year several diamond drilling plants were operating on prospecting licences at Tavua, but no new ore bodies of note had been discovered. An interesting deposit of argentiferous ore was found in the headwaters of the Tamavua River in the second half of the year. Assays show the presence of silver, gold, copper, lead, zinc blende and barytes. The area is being prospected vigorously by Mt. Morgan Developments, Limited.

The Emperor mine at Tavua commenced operations on 1st January and treated 5,707 tons of ore during the year for a return of 4,559 oz. of fine gold and 498 oz. of silver. The capacity of the treatment plant was increased towards the end of the year by the installation of additional filtration units. The average number of men employed on this mine throughout the year was 238.

Loloma (Fiji) Gold Mines, N.L. was formed in August, 1935, with a nominal capital of £225,000 to take over the interests of Loloma Gold Mines N.L. in Prospecting Licence No. 244 at Tavua. Two mining leases covering a total area of 191½ acres were granted to the new Company, subject to subsequent amalgamation, in December. Bulk samples of ore from the property were sent to Australia for the purpose of ascertaining the most suitable metallurgical treatment.

Mt. Kasi Mines, Limited, at Yanawai completed the erection of a new ore treatment plant and commenced operations in May, 1935. A total of 7,829 tons of ore was treated up to the end of the year for a return of 1,786·9 oz. of fine gold and 133 oz. of silver. The average number of men employed during the year was 113.

The following statement shows the fine gold produced in the Yanawai and Tavua Mining Areas since the commencement of mining operations :—

Year.	*Yanawai.*	*Tavua.*	*Total.*
	oz.	oz.	oz.
1932	311·1	nil	311·1
1933	1,844·2	nil	1,844·2
1934	796·7	134·7	931·4
1935	1,786·9	4,940·8	6,727·7
Totals ...	4,738·9	5,075·5	9,814·4

VII.—COMMERCE.

The figures for the year under review, as compared with 1934, show an appreciable increase, and represent the most prosperous period since 1929. This is largely due to the development of the gold mines at Tavua, the increased price of copra, and record sugar exports.

The total trade of the Colony for 1935 exclusive of transhipments amounted to £3,067,898 compared with £2,451,659 in 1934. Imports, £995,204 in 1934, increased by £262,083 to £1,257,287, and exports the value of which were £1,456,455 in 1934 were increased by £354,156 to £1,810,611. The increase of total trade being £616,239.

Values of imports, exports, total trade and visible trade balance for each of the past five years were :—

Year ended 31st Dec.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1931 ...	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701	70,673
1932 ...	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	841,618
1933 ...	1,069,266	1,725,529	2,794,795	656,263
1934 ...	995,204	1,456,455	2,451,659	461,251
1935 ...	1,257,287	1,810,611	3,067,8[illegible]8	553,324

In 1935, the total trade of the Colony was divided between the different countries as follows :—

Country.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total.*	*Percentage of total trade.*
	£	£	£	
United Kingdom	495,992	896,944	1,392,936	45·41
Australia	307,387	130,460	437,847	14·27
Canada	56.823	457,273	514,096	16·75
India	86,755	—	86,755	2·82
New Zealand	45,505	109,280	154,785	5·04
Dutch East Indies	25,755	—	25,755	·84
Japan	39,625	2,004	41,629	1·35
United States of America ...	95,150	40,841	135,991	4·43
Other British Possessions ...	35,690	13,948	49,638	1·63
Other Foreign Countries ...	43,928	142,400	186,328	6·09
	1,232,610	1,793,150	3,025,760	98·63
Ships' Stores	—	17,461	17,461	·57
Parcels Post	24,677	—	24,677	·80
Totals ... £	1,257,287	1,810,611	3,067,898	100·00

The following table shows how the trade was distributed during the past two years:—

Country.	*Percentage of imports.*		*Percentage of exports.*		*Percentage of total trade.*	
	1934.	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
United Kingdom ...	36·45	39·45	46·33	49·54	42·32	45·41
Other British Possessions.	43·00	42·33	46·58	39·26	45·13	40·51
Foreign Countries...	18·16	16·26	6·90	10·23	11·48	12·71
Parcels Post ...	2·39	1·96	—	—	·95	·80
Ships' Stores ...	—	—	·19	·97	·12	·57
Total ...	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Imports.

The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows:—

Country.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	258,171	250,748	366,151	362,763	495,992
Australia	372,284	317,046	379,886	261,108	307,387
Canada	40,134	25,675	38,175	45,309	56,823
India	32,622	33,944	39,242	63,588	86,755
New Zealand	81,470	100,255	88,174	34,343	45,505
Japan	23,909	29,814	39,269	29,764	39,625
Dutch East Indies ...	20,115	22,633	18,794	24,643	25,755
United States	51,789	25,937	42,431	86,285	95,150

The proportion of the total import trade done with these countries during the same period was as follows:—

Country.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	27·77	29·25	34·24	36·45	39·45
Australia	40·05	36·98	35·53	26·24	24·45
Canada	4·32	3·00	3·57	4·55	4·52
India	3·51	3·96	3·67	6·39	6·90
New Zealand	8·76	11·69	8·25	3·45	3·62
Japan	2·57	3·48	3·67	2·99	3·15
Dutch East Indies ...	2·16	2·64	1·76	2·48	2·05
United States	5·57	3·03	3·97	8·67	7·58

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows :—

FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

	1934.		1935.	
Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Boots and shoes ...	—	1,394	—	1,553
Cement and lime	45,180 cwt.	4,584	69,546 cwt.	7,126
Cinematograph films.	434,189 ft.	4,896	733,633 ft.	4,320
Drapery	—	72,602	—	124,362
Drugs	—	7,240	—	6,290
Hardware ...	—	51,483	—	56,108
Iron, black, and steel, mild.	7, 730 cwt.	4,415	10,707 cwt.	5,925
Iron, galvanized...	14,163 cwt.	11,190	19,909 cwt.	15,691
Machinery ...	—	23,744	—	49.654
Manures	4,737 tons	22,418	—	20,911
Matches, wood ...	31,600 gross	5,806	34,600 gross	6,266
Motor vehicles ...	46	6,002	90	10,787
Oils	60,523 gal.	6,225	59,320 gal.	5,792
Paints	114 tons	5,378	167 tons	8,276
Salt	12,435 cwt.	2,062	16,886 cwt.	2,662
Spirits	15,131 gal.	16,398	17,043 gal.	18,032
Stationery ...	—	4,536	—	6,032
Tobacco	15,442 lb.	6,453	18,281 lb.	7,562
Toys and fancy goods.	—	5,973	—	6,241
Other articles ...	—	99,964	—	132,412
TOTAL ...		£362,763		£495,992

FROM AUSTRALIA.

Bags and sacks ...	—	—	125 doz.	27
Beer	41,815 gal.	6,819	53,473 gal.	8,436
Biscuits, fancy ...	109,629 lb.	4,490	132,013 lb.	5,155
Confectionery ...	82,123 lb.	3,378	74,081 lb.	3,393
Coal	26,138 tons	17,855	51,545 tons	19,699
Cordage and rope	1,023 cwt.	2,757	719 cwt.	1,854
Drapery	—	1,882	—	1,792
Drugs	—	3,926	—	4,123
Flour, sharps and pollard.	15,100,709 lb.	46,579	17,422,685 lb.	60,146
Fruits and vegetables, fresh.	25,687 cwt.	7,746	20,185 cwt.	9,091
Grease	2,019 cwt.	1,157	2,577 cwt.	1,410
Hardware ...	—	21,325	—	19,452
Machinery ...	—	34,097	—	34,998
Meats	109,771 lb.	2,017	240,374 lb.	4,621
Oils	648 gal.	105	1,160 gal.	622
Paints	65 tons	3,362	76 tons	4,244
Photographs and films.	58,243 ft.	597	140,504 ft.	822

FROM AUSTRALIA—*continued*

Article.	*1934.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*	*1935.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Rice	229 cwt.	143	1,482 cwt.	799
Spirits	598 gal.	481	1,256 gal.	430
Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars.	75,536 lb.	22,537	84,031 lb.	24,503
Other articles ...	—	79,855	—	101,740
TOTAL ...		£261,108		£307,387

FROM CANADA.

Article.	*1934.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*	*1935.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*
Fish	296,900 lb.	6,172	578,279 lb.	11,617
Motor Vehicles ...	—	17,113	116	14,399
Timber	2,230,544 sup. ft.	10,793	3,065,188 ft.	14,947
Tyres and tubes...	—	4,188	—	5,341
Other articles ...	—	7,043	—	10,519
TOTAL ...		£45,309		£56,823

FROM INDIA.

Article.	*1934.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*	*1935.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*
Bags and sacks ...	119,986 doz.	32,639	179,453 doz.	49,995
Dhall	14,029 cwt.	7,202	12,078 cwt.	7,126
Drapery	—	2,962	—	5,604
Ghee and ghee substitutes.	182,389 lb.	2,829	13,367 lb.	216
Oil, mustard ...	45,125 gal.	5,362	57,243 gal.	8,800
Other articles ...	—	12,594	—	15,014
TOTAL ...		£63,588		£86,755

FROM NEW ZEALAND

Article.	*1934.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*	*1935.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*
Bacon and hams	64,765 lb.	3,004	59,519 lb.	3,032
Drapery	—	1,846	—	1,709
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	17,809 cwt.	4,891	16,759 cwt.	6,664
Grease and tallow	1,424 cwt.	1,184	1,581 cwt.	2,228
Manure	991 cwt.	318	1,170 cwt.	404
Meat	209,605 lb.	4,964	386,738 lb.	9,089
Photographs and films.	9,200 ft.	115		
Soap, plain ...	352,954 lb.	2,920	516,121 lb.	4,588
Sugar	421,537 lb.	2,410	363,446 lb.	2,018
Other articles ...	—	12,691	—	15,773
TOTAL ...		£34,343		£45,505

From Japan.

	1934.		1935.	
Article.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Drapery	—	24,487	—	32,443
Other articles	—	5,277	—	7,182
Total		£29,764		£39,625

From Dutch East Indies.

Oil, crude	788,385 gal.	4,102	956,392 gal.	4,887
Kerosene	123,848 gal.	3,891	166,536 gal.	5,196
Motor fuel	422,594 gal.	16,646	517,976 gal.	15,645
Other articles	—	4	—	27
Total		£24,643		£25,775

From United States of America.

Cinematograph films.	3,772,163 ft.	36,466	2,825,391 ft.	17,157
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	1,111 cwt.	1,231	3,916 cwt.	2,370
Hardware	—	6,672	—	5,136
Oil, kerosene	154,473 gal.	5,450	235,716 gal.	8,247
Motor fuel	536,251 gal.	7,553	689,927 gal.	11,644
Other	28,898 gal.	3,420	557,831 gal.	9,509
Machinery, agricultural.	—	1,594	—	6,003
Other articles	—	18,541	—	29,967
Motor vehicles	—	5,358	29	5,117
Total		£86,285		£95,150

Imports show increases in practically all important items, the largest being in those imports which are mostly purchased by the Fijian and Indian portion of the population, such as canned meats and fish, and drapery.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom are drapery and other manufactured articles, while the greater portion of foodstuffs is imported from Australia and New Zealand. Of the imports, 81·78 per cent. came from within the Empire and 16·26 per cent. from foreign sources. The balance of 1·96 per cent., being imports through parcels post, is not analysed.

As compared with 1934, imports of Empire origin were 2·33 per cent. more while imports from foreign countries and through parcels post showed decreases of 1·9 per cent. and ·43 per cent. respectively.

Exports.

The exports of the principal products of the Colony for the past five years were as follows:—

Article.		*1931.*		*1932*		*1933.*		*1934.*		*1935.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... tons	67,937	624,310	131,302	1,289,239	113,836	1,180,782	103,863	1,069,049	135,633	1,314,128
Copra ...	... tons	16,917	177,786	15,076	170,240	22,597	195,788	23,520	127,941	26,081	220,478
Molasses ...	... tons	9,019	9,019	9,448	9,448	12,937	12,937	16,828	16,828	16,545	16,545
Bananas ...	bunches	194,875	57,368	346,968	67,237	326,422	69,243	324,494	67,845	303,127	66,863
Biscuits ..	... lb.	149,630	3,325	133,266	3,135	84,654	1,919	53,749	1,088	71,394	1,438
Butter ...	... cwt.	1,612	7,519	2,421	11,299	1,837	7,564	1,307	4,016	244	970
Cotton ..	... lb.	78,932	1,146	101,997	5,100	34,870	2,300	2,513	84	3,860	257
Vegetables ...	... cwt.	9,925	4,988	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228	1,961	940	5,881	2,237
Pines, canned	... lb.	297,301	5,961	621,036	8,095	380,711	5,582	282,686	3,808	114,794	1,718
Pines, fresh	... cases	5,607	1,510	1,776	668	2,684	1,007	2,171	816	986	371
Trocas shell	... tons	183	7,371	266	12,125	365	19,945	319	20,733	298	20,226
Gold Bullion	... ozs.	—	—	305	2,053	2,079	13,500	1,033	7,590	6,933	54,019

Sugar remains the most important export. During the year, 135,633 tons were exported, 85,353 tons being shipped to the United Kingdom, and 49,244 tons to Canada, the average value per ton being £9 13s. 9d. and the total value £1,314,128. The 1934 figures were 103,863 tons exported, of an average of £10 5s. 10d. per ton and a total value of £1,069,049.

Exports of *copra* increased from 23,526 tons in 1934 to 26,081 tons in 1935. The average export value in 1934 was £5 8s. 9d. and £8 9s. 1d. in 1935, the total values being £127,941 in 1934 and £220,478 in 1935, an increase of £92,537 or over 72 per cent. The most marked increase in exports is on that of *Gold Bullion* which increased from 1,032 oz. valued at £7,590 in 1934 to 6,933 oz. valued at £54,009. All exports of this product were consigned to Australia. Exports of bananas, molasses, and trocas shell show a slight decrease in both value and quantity as compared with 1934.

The following table shows quantity and value of twelve of the minor products of the Colony exported during the last five years :—

Article.		1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£
Beans, Mauritius..	cwt.	968	1,212	2,590	3,237	1,201	1,855	1,595	2,660	961	1,683
Bêche-de-mer ...	cwt.	2,864	16,045	2,074	8,801	255	1,348	272	1,408	434	2,381
Coconuts	No.	300,860	906	330,930	994	251,330	754	300,040	807	16,400	490
Fruits, fresh, other than bananas or pines.		—	1,919	—	1,116	—	3,663	—	2,010	—	5,248
Gum	cwt.	1,025	1,092	3,074	3,013	2,618	3,220	3,936	4,364	3,657	4,196
Oil, coconut ...	tons.	61	1,631	18	410	50	1,129	65	1,352	81	1,690
Shell, pearl ...	lb.	24,304	216	21,504	193	12,824	128	7,817	80	8,035	81
„ turtle ...	lb.	1,881	1,594	1,400	879	1,687	1,041	2,788	1,870	1,670	1,342
Soap, plain ...	cwt.	2,406	3,456	3,141	4,332	3,084	4,338	2,632	3,244	3,311	4,255
Hides	No.	4,208	2,283	3,473	1,724	3,587	1,381	4,546	1,917	4,506	2,867

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

Little change has been made during the year in the conditions governing the employment of labourers under contract of service.

Owing to the better price paid for copra during the year, the wages of labourers on coconut plantations was increased to a maximum of £12 per annum. Agricultural labourers may be employed under contracts for a period not exceeding twelve months. Every contract for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent if the contract appears unreasonable or inequitable. The hours of labour are nine a day, from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and returning them to their villages is borne by the employer. Adequate safeguards are provided by law for the proper housing and treatment of labourers, and employers are required to provide medical care in cases of sickness.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands he is capable of supporting himself and his family from the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians do support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. The men are employed chiefly in the loading and unloading of cargo vessels, and many of them return to their villages after the work of each ship is completed. A large number of these labourers are drawn from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses, and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. There is, however, nothing to prevent them from returning to their villages and resuming their place in the native social system if they so desire. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed, and they are in all cases a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew. This type of work is popular with the Fijians, and the wages they earn are sufficient for the support of themselves and their dependants.

During 1935 there was employment available on the Suva-Navua section of the new road which enabled many Fijians to earn their rates and taxes and to raise money for other requirements. This work will continue during a large part of 1936. A considerable number of men found employment also at the gold mines at Tavua and at Mount Kasi. At both these places labour conditions are excellent and the wages paid are good.

The wages paid for the various classes of labour are a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but in all contracts of service exceeding one month the District Commissioner may decline to register the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. Statistics concerning the current rate of wages are given elsewhere.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

Wage conditions have not changed during the past year and the various standards are as follows :—

> Unskilled labour Suva 2s. 6d. per day—Country districts varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. In the cane areas the labour is seasonal as far as mill workers and cane cutters are concerned. Mill labourers are paid on an average of 1s. 8d. per day with a bonus of 7d. per day during the crushing season. These workers enjoy certain privileges in the purchase of provisions which are not available to outside labour. Cane cutters receive bonuses from growers that in many instances raise their earnings to as much as from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

Casual labour is in firm demand during the crushing season and owing to the fact that the source of supply is from the small peasant farmers—who are growing more and more independent of outside income—the supply is never in excess of requirements and frequently the opposite.

Public Works Department, Labour.

The total average number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards was 1,794. Of these, 915 were employed in the Suva District and 879 in various country districts.

Wages for unskilled labour ranged from 2s. per day in some of the country districts to 2s. 6d. per day in Suva.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 14s. to 20s. a day according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat-builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths and fitters. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above, and the time is not far distant when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen.

> Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day, depending on the degree of skill.
>
> Boatbuilders 8s. to 20s. a day. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boat sheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.
>
> Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 20s. a day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 5s. rising to £2 12s. 6d. a week.
>
> Painters (usually Indians) 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam-roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 10s. to 18s. a day. The average wage is £4 10s. 0d. a week.
>
> Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. 0d. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. 0d. a month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department and the conditions under which the labourers work are practically identical with those obtaining outside the Department. The hours of work are eight a day or 48 a week, and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose employees work nine hours a day or 54 hours a week.

There are no records kept by the Public Works Department of the cost of living of the different classes of labourers employed. In any case, there is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories, each with a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £20 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £5 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general, cook and house-boy, and cook, house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl.

Cooks earn £5 to £6 a month and food, others £2 to £4 a month and food.

Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are cheaper but less efficient. White servants are very rarely employed, except as children's nurses.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children, or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

In Suva, a single man could live, though with little margin for emergencies, on £200 a year. In country districts, if quarters were provided, he could live on slightly less.

European artisans tend to be employed only on fairly responsible work, and are usually men who keep up a fairly high standard of living. Since they are unlikely to have any privileges in the shape of free housing, it is unlikely that a married man could manage on less than £250 tc £300 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use.

Butter	1s. 6d. per lb.
Bread	3d. per lb.
Milk	6d. per quart.
Cheese	1s. 2d. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 1d. per lb.
Pork	1s. 2d. per lb.
Rice	3d. per lb.
Coffee	1s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Tea	2s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Sugar, white	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown	2d. per lb.
Salt	1½d. per lb.
Eggs	2s. 0d. to 3s. 6d. per doz.
Bacon	1s. 8d. per lb.
Preserved meats	1s. 1d. per lb.
Onions	3d. per lb.
Flour	2½d. per lb.
Potatoes	14s. per cwt.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows:—

	Children of Ratepayers.	Children of Non-Ratepayers.
Primary	Free ...	£2 2 0 a year
Secondary	£6 0 0 a year ...	£7 10 0 a year

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva grammar schools.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive

Sports and social clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s., and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis, golf, and cricket clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £4 4s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows.—

New Zealand	£12 to £25.
Australia	£25 to £50.
England	£87 10s. to £159 10s.

A special cabin-class return passage to England is quoted at £119 16s.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost of living of Fijian and Indian labourers, of whom only a small number are dependent on their wages. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to grow and husk their own rice. In these ways they materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are landowners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages, as they can return and live on their own lands whenever they so desire. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced foodstuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

The history of native education is closely interwoven with that of the various Mission Societies represented in Fiji. The Methodist Mission arrived in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870 and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889. The early Missionaries reduced the language to writing, published a Fijian-English Dictionary and printed a translation of the New Testament. They established schools throughout the Colony and the high percentage of literacy is mainly due to their efforts.

The Education Ordinance of 1916 established a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926, an Education Commission was appointed to inquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No. 1 of 1929 substituted. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

Grants to registered schools are based mainly on the average attendances of children of school age (6-14) for the three months preceding 1st July in the previous year and partly on the grade of the teachers employed. Grants vary from £3 per head in a school with an average attendance of 20 pupils, to £1 18s. 8d. in a school with an average attendance of 203.

Teachers in Government Schools are appointed by the Governor and receive such salary as the Governor, with the advice of the Legislative Council, may determine.

The Board has power to direct that a particular school shall be registered for the education of children of a particular race, and schools have accordingly been registered for Europeans, Fijians, Indians, Chinese and Melanesians, while a number of schools, usually in the towns, enrol children of all races.

European Education.

There are 13 schools which enrol Europeans: three are Government schools, five are controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, three by the Roman Catholic Mission and two by local committees.

All of these are primary schools and four (two Government and two Roman Catholic) have secondary departments. The Government schools prepare pupils for the New Zealand Education Department Examinations or the University Entrance Examination. The two Roman Catholic Mission schools prepare pupils for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Manual instruction for boys, and cooking for girls, are included in the curriculum. A commercial course is given in the two schools for girls—the Girls' Grammar School and St. Joseph's Convent.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes, which are organized to enable a pupil taking the course to pass into an appropriate class in the Grammar Schools. Fifty-seven pupils were enrolled during the year. The fees are £2 a year, books and stationery being also supplied at cost price.

Under a Scheme of Co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji the three Government schools are staffed by New Zealand teachers, who serve as a rule from two to six years in Fiji. The teachers in the Colonial Sugar Refining Company schools are usually recruited in New Zealand. The syllabus of instruction in these schools is very similar to that prescribed in New Zealand. A number of children leave Fiji every year to attend schools, the greater number going to New Zealand, some to Australia, and a few to England.

Half of the net cost of the three Government schools for Europeans is met from a special education rate levied in the towns of Suva and Levuka, in which the schools are situated. Children of the owners or occupiers of houses on which education rate is paid are exempt from tuition fees in the primary classes, and pay £6 a year in the secondary classes. Others pay £2 2s. 0d. in the primary and £7 10s. 0d. a year in the secondary classes. All fees are reduced by one-third when two or more members of a family attend.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for boys and the other for girls. The fee is £50 a year with liberal reductions for two or more members of a family. Hostels are also maintained by the Methodist Mission in Suva, and by the Roman Catholic Mission in Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. There were 443 girls and 519 boys on the roll of the 13 schools. The gross cost to Government of all European schools was £9,798 10s. 11d.

Some European children are also enrolled in schools for children of all races. The total number of European children in all schools is 1,370.

Fijian Education.

There are 285 schools including seven Government schools for Fijians. Practically every Fijian child has access to a school of some kind although many of them are not very efficient. Grants-in-aid were paid to 118 primary schools, and the number will increase as more certificated teachers are trained. In these grant-aided schools Fijian is the medium of instruction in Classes 1 to 4. In addition to the usual school subjects English may be taught for a limited time per day. Of the seven Government schools, six, known as Provincial Schools, are residential. The syllabus is that of the assisted primary schools, except that more attention is paid to English, which becomes the medium of instruction in the higher classes. Each school maintains a farm, and at least nine hours a week are devoted to practical agriculture.

The Fijians contribute £4,350 a year towards the maintenance of these schools. Each Province selects pupils in proportion to its annual contributions, and in many Provinces the competition is so keen that it has been possible to select the brighter pupils from the local schools. Pupils usually enrol at about the age of 12 and remain at school to the end of the year in which they attain the age of 18.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians is maintained by the Government, a fee of £6 a year being charged. Six exhibitions, tenable for three years, are awarded annually on the results of a competitive examination. Other pupils are required to pass an entrance examination. The roll in 1935 was 87. The course is similar to that in Provincial Schools, but owing to the more rigorous selection of pupils, the standard is higher. Pupils of this school are prepared for admission to the Government service, the Teachers' Training Schools and the Central Medical School.

The total number of Fijians in all schools that forwarded returns was 15,209 of whom 8,823 were boys and 6,386 girls.

The gross cost to Government of Fijian education, excluding the Central Medical School, was £22,665 15s. 10d.

Indian Education.

In 1935, there were 74 schools for Indians including seven Government schools. Of these 55 were assisted by grants-in-aid. In these schools Hindustani is the medium of instruction in Classes I to IV. In addition to the usual school subjects English is taught. In many of the schools an attempt is made to teach a third language, usually Tamil. A number of the assisted schools are controlled by local committees. Many find it difficult to secure the necessary funds to supplement the grant made by Government, but generally conditions improve yearly. Indian boys may proceed to the Secondary Department of the Natambua Indian School where they may be prepared for the University Entrance Examination. The standard of all schools is improving as more trained teachers become available.

There were 5,501 Indian pupils, 4,130 boys and 1,371 girls, in all schools in 1935. The gross amount spent on Indian education was £11,745.

Training of Teachers.

There are four training institutions (one Government and three Mission) for male teachers. Both Indians and Fijians are enrolled in two of these and in the others Fijians only. The course is for two years and students are selected by a competitive examination. Government assistance was given towards the training of 60 students.

There are no special training schools for women. In 1935, special grants were paid to four girls' schools (two Methodist Mission and two Roman Catholic Mission) to enable them to train women teachers, of whom there were 20. In addition to these a number of girls were employed as probationers in girls' schools.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first class certificate a teacher must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university or its equivalent. For the lowest or fifth class the standard is approximately that of a normal English child of 14.

Technical Schools.

The Ndavuilevu Technical School, controlled by the Methodist Mission, gives technical training, mainly carpentry, to Fijian boys. A similar school is maintained by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Ovalau.

Navuso Agricultural School.

This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides a course in farming and dairying for 87 young Fijian men. A Government grant of £400 was paid in 1935.

Other Schools.

Separate departmental schools are controlled by the Medical, Agricultural and Police departments to train their native assistants.

Finance.

The gross amount expended from general revenue in 1935 on educational services was £46,500 8s. 7d.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Mail communication within the Colony is maintained by means of vessels subsidized by Government, by motor road services, by mail carriers, and by itinerant vessels.

The s.s. *Malake* runs between Suva, Levuka, Savu Savu, Ndeloi (Butha Bay), Rambi, and to the Taveuni coast twice monthly, and between Suva and Lautoka twice monthly. This vessel also calls once every two months at Malau, the port for Lambasa, if so required.

The s.s. *Andi Rewa* runs between Suva, Levuka, Nambouwalu, Ndreketi and Lambasa twice monthly, calling at certain small places *en route* either on the inward or outward journey.

A subsidized cutter conveys mails between Taveuni and Ndeloi (Butha Bay) once weekly.

Mails are conveyed by motor vehicle from Suva to Nausori, Nanduruloulou, Korovou, Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and Lautoka and return daily except Sundays and from Lautoka to Nandi and Nandronga and return five times weekly. There is also a motor mail service three times weekly between Nausori, Korovou and Vunindawa.

Carriers are chiefly used on Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kandavu, between post offices on those islands. The services run once weekly.

External communication is provided by the British vessels *Aorangi* and *Niagara* of the Canadian-Australasian Line, to which Company a subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid, and by the American vessels *Mariposa* and *Monterey* of the Matson Navigation Company. The former vessels call at Suva, once in every four weeks, on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver, and the latter, once in every four weeks, on their voyages between Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Pango Pango, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The *Waipahi* provides a four-weekly cargo and limited passenger service between Sydney, Lautoka, Suva and Auckland.

Direct steamers from London to Suva, via Panama, arrive at intervals of approximately six weeks, and occasional calls are made by vessels from Australia and New Zealand travelling to ports in the United Kingdom, via Panama. Calls are also made at fairly regular intervals by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's vessel *Fiona*.

Telephone communication is available between Suva, Nausori, Nanduruloulou and Vunindawa; between Suva, Tailevu and Levuka on the island of Ovalau (communication between Tailevu and Ovalau being by submarine cable); between Suva and Navua; between Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and

Lautoka, and between Nandarivatu and Mba. Telephone exchange areas are Suva, Lautoka, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, and rural party lines are maintained on Taveuni (40 miles), and in the Savusavu district on the south-east coast of Vanua Levu.

Wireless stations, operated by Amalgamated Wireless, Limited, are situated at Suva, Taveuni, Lambasa, and Savusavu. The Government operates a permanent station on the island of Rotuma, and also a temporary station at Lautoka. Wireless telephone communication exists between Levuka and the Central Leper Hospital at Makongai.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Cable and Wireless Limited, and by wireless from the Suva station with the principal Groups in the Western Pacific, and also with Honolulu and Sydney.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows :—

	Miles.
Metalled	200
Gravelled	282
Earth (Motorable in fine weather)	102
Earth (Not motorable)	52
Bridle tracks	1,583
Total	2,219

In addition to the above the Suva Town Board controls 13 miles of roads, of which 9½ miles are tar and bitumen surfaced.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the two-foot gauge, laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company on the Rewa River, along the sea coast from Sigatoka (south-west Viti Levu) to Tavua (north of Viti Levu) in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Viti Levu, and at Lambasa on the island of Vanua Levu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Singatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government.

The total length of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles. About 220 miles of this total consist of the main line from Singatoka to Tavua, with the necessary branch lines

Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connection with the transport work of the Company.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand with one. The paid-up capital of the former was £8,780,000 at 31st December while that of the latter was £6,328,125 at 31st March. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales was £1,373,138 at 31st December, and by the Bank of New Zealand £360,720 at 31st March.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which the number of accounts, at the end of the year, was 8,517 and the total amount on deposit was £269,985, an increase of £32,304 over the previous year's figure.

The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows :—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1935)	321,149
Cash at Bank and with Treasury	13,052
Total	£334,201

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1935 were as follows :—

	£	£
Income from investments ...		11,562
Interest credited to Depositors ...	6,836	
Salaries	1,008	
Expenses	2,540	
		10,384
Surplus		£1,178

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

The position of the Note Security Fund at 31st December, 1935, was as follows :—

		Sterling. £			*Fiji.* £		
Liabilities ...	Notes in Circulation				506,866	0	0
Assets ...	Note Security Fund invested portion	516,819	6	6	573,669	9	1
	Cash with Crown Agents ...	25,000	0	0	27,750	0	0
	Cash with Colonial Treasurer ...				6,553	13	0
		£541,819	6	6	£607,973	2	1

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £247,369 3s. 6d. This expenditure was incurred under the following headings :—

	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	12,508	5	3
Public Works Recurrent	78,932	6	7
Public Works Extraordinary	42,605	7	11
Loan Funds	106,671	8	6
Miscellaneous	6,651	15	3
Total	£247,369	3	6

The corresponding figures for the previous five years are as follows :—

	£
1930	212,792
1931	166,690
1932	160,747
1933	148,155
1934	190,718

The administration of the Department is under the control of the Director of Public Works, with headquarters in Suva, the execution of the works being divided into three branches under the Assistant Engineers, Suva and Levuka, and the Mechanical Engineer, Suva.

The Suva District comprises about one-third of Viti Levu and the majority of the other islands, including Rotuma. The Headquarters are at Walu Bay, Suva, where the main stores and workshops are situated.

The Lautoka District comprises the Northern and Western portions of the Island of Viti Levu, and the Yasawa Group. The Headquarters are at Lautoka, where there is a smaller depot, consisting of stores and workshops.

Each of the Executive Officers in charge of these branches is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all civil engineering works within his district.

The Mechanical Engineer's branch is responsible for the running of the principal quarry and stone crushing plant, for a fleet of nine launches and tugs, two slipways, and of extensive workshops for boat building and all kinds of mechanical engineering workshop repairs.

A start was made on the construction of the Rewa River Bridge in August, 1934. This bridge was designed by Messrs. Rendall, Palmer and Tritton from information supplied by the Director of

Public Works. When completed it will consist of three 60 feet girder spans and nine 120 feet steel truss spans. The concrete deck which is 30 feet above ordinary high water level is 28 feet wide, to provide an 18 foot roadway and two 5 foot footways. By the end of the year more than half of the work had been completed and it is expected that the bridge will be open to traffic towards the end of 1936.

The surveys for the construction of the Suva-Singatoka Road have been completed. The road is 65 miles in length and 64 bridges will be required. Construction work was started from both ends and, by the end of the year, 10 miles of formation and 15 bridges had been completed.

Considerable improvement has been made to the roads in the Lautoka district. Five stone crushing plants have been established in convenient situations and the whole road from Suva to Lautoka is now suitable for traffic under any weather conditions.

A site for the proposed new Government Offices has been acquired, the houses on it have been removed and about 8,000 cubic yards of the 32,000 cubic yards of filling required to raise the level have been placed. Sketch plans for the buildings were completed in December. A bold modern style with clear straight lines has been adopted. The building, which is two stories high with a central clock tower, has a total floor area of 51,294 sq. feet. The preliminary estimate of the cost is £162,350, apart from the cost of acquisition and preparation of the site.

Other works undertaken during the year include: Suva Water Supply extension of 3 in. main to Suva Point; new concrete Pathological Laboratory at Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva; new wards at Makongai Central Leper Hospital; Lautoka Water Supply new 6 in. main; new Customs Warehouse, Lautoka; Tavua Bridge, five spans of 45 ft. each; and a Diesel-engined vessel, estimated to cost £3,000, for use in the Lau Group.

The beaconing of the various waterways and marine dangers was continued during the year.

Increased funds for recurrent works were available this year and the general condition of the roads, buildings, floating stock, water supplies, etc., shows considerable improvement.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

The Supreme Court consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall, within the Colony, have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *nisi prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity, and has, wthin the Colony, the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and, under an Order in Council dated the 10th of March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than five to two. Special provision is made, however, in an Order in Council dated 15th September, 1911, for the trial of accused persons at Lautoka, wherein it is provided, *inter alia*, that any cause triable at the Central Criminal Court by a jury shall be triable in the Circuit Court by the Chief Justice with four assessors.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English, are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors, with the exception of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, salaried functionaries of any foreign Government not carrying on business, persons employed by the Cable and Wireless Limited, or by the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, clergymen and ministers, officers and others on full pay in His Majesty's Naval, Military, or Air Forces, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, salaried officials of the Municipal Council, persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity or earning an income of less than £150 a year, and persons convicted of any treason, felony, or infamous crime who have not received a full pardon, are disqualified from serving. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Sheriff, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen.

In capital cases, sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor, after considering the report in Executive Council, communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the Civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony, and is governed in its practice by the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adopt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England.

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are: The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883, and Divorce Rules, 1933.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the Criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the Civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims of value less than £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in which they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of those inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is governed by Ordinance No. 22 of 1934, which provides that an appeal shall lie to the Court from the decision—

(1) of any Provincial Court established under the provisions of the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, upon the terms and in the manner which may be from time to time prescribed by regulations made under the said Ordinance; or

(2) of any District Commissioner where—

(*a*) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds the sum of three pounds exclusive of any costs ordered to be paid; or

(*b*) a person has been adjudged by a conviction or order made on information or complaint either as punishment for an offence or for failing to do or abstain from doing any act or thing required to be done or left undone to be imprisoned without the option of a fine; or

(*c*) a charge has been dismissed; or

(*d*) in any case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which in the opinion of the Court is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal; or

(*e*) a sentence of corporal punishment has been ordered.

Provided that no appeal shall lie in the case of any accused person who has pleaded guilty and has been convicted on such plea except as to the extent and legality of the sentence. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in Civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by the Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The most recent edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. First, there are the Provincial Courts, composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives, and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in Civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

There is one Judge in the Colony (the Chief Justice), 17 Magistrates (District Commissioners), 1 District Magistrate who performs the duties of itinerating Magistrate, 67 Justices of the Peace, and 29 Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 44 criminal cases heard at the sessions during 1935; of these, five were murder charges. The indictments comprised the following charges :—

Murder	5
Breaking and entering	7
Carnal knowledge	4
Arson	3
Horse and cattle stealing	3
Attempted suicide	3
Manslaughter	2
Wounding with intent	2
Larceny	2
Bigamy	2
Embezzlement	1
Forgery	1
Miscellaneous	9
	44

One hundred and one civil matters were instituted in the Civil Division at the Central Registry, composed as follows :—

Actions for recovery of debt	28
Goods sold and delivered	20
Actions for damages	10
Originating summonses	5
Moneys due under mortgage	4
Actions for recovery of rent	3
Actions for recovery of land	2
Specific performance	1
Injunctions	1
Moneys due on accounts	1
Habeas Corpus	1
Summonses to extend caveats	3
Petitions and motions	3
Admissions of Barristers	3
Miscellaneous	15
	101

Twenty-four petitions were filed in the Divorce Court in which one European, one half-caste, and 22 Indians were concerned. There were 85 petitions for divorce by native Fijians.

Forty-three grants of probate, 22 Letters of Administration and 22 orders to reseal Colonial and other grants were made in the Probate jurisdiction. The gross value of the estates concerned in these grants was £43,600 13s. 1d. Five bankruptcy petitions and five bankruptcy notices came before the Bankruptcy Court. There were three applications for admission as barristers and solicitors during the year. There are now 18 European and four Indian practitioners in the Colony.

No civil appeals were filed, but eight criminal appeals were entered for hearing. One action was commenced in the Admiralty Division during the latter part of the year.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1931 to 1935 is given below :—

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil Appeal.*	*Criminal Appeal.*	*Grants of Probate, etc.*
1931	84	12	89	35	2	–	5	66
1932	106	16	79	52	4	2	4	82
1933	103	15	67	35	–	2	12	89
1934	97	22	73	45	2	–	9	101
1935	119	26	85	44	10	–	8	87

A District Registry was opened at Lautoka in 1932, and process (with the exception of Probate applications and proceedings in Divorce and Bankruptcy) from the districts of Nandroga, Nandi, Lautoka, Mba, Tholo North and Ra were dealt with at that Registry under the Supreme Court Rules, 1931. The Registry was closed, however, as from 25th April, 1935, and it is not proposed to reopen it at present.

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of a mixed force of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the Force are at Suva, where there is a Central Station at Totongo and a Depot at Nasova.

STRENGTH.

On the 31st December, 1935, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans :	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd grade	7
Fijians :	
Non-Commissioned Officers	22
Constables	89
Indians :	
Non-Commissioned Officers	13
Constables	75

ARMAMENT AND TRAINING.

The Force is armed with S.M.L.E. Mk. III rifle. Regular parades are held throughout the year at Headquarters and an annual course of musketry is fired. Being quasi-military in organization the Constabulary is required to repress internal disturbances and defend the Colony against external aggression. With the establishment of a Training School at the Police Depot, Nasova, all recruits undergo a course of training in police duties before being posted as constables.

Special Constables under the command of the Inspector-General may be called upon when necessary in cases of tumult or riot.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioners.

EXPENDITURE.

The total cost of the Force was £24,857 6s. 4d., being a rate per head of population of 2s. 5½d.

CRIME.

The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,147, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	144
Offences against property	294
Other offences, mainly against revenue laws ...	1,709
Committed for Trial by Supreme Court :	
Offences against the Person	14
Offences against Property	18
Other offences	7
Other offences dealt with by District Commissioners :—	
Convicted	1,886
Discharged	222

TRAFFIC.

The Constabulary control traffic in the Colony and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1935 was 1,505, made up as follows :

Motor-cars for private use	620
Public motor cars	241
Lorries for private use	221
Lorries for carriage of goods and materials ...	63
Private chars-à-bancs	—
Public chars-à-bancs	240
Motor-cycles	120

Four hundred and thirty-six persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

Heavy motor vehicles exceeding 2½ tons gross weight unladen and the use of motor vehicles having a loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly designed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

HEALTH.

The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony. The Headquarters' strength is subjected to daily medical inspection by either a Fijian or Indian Medical Practitioner.

Prisons.

The control of prisons is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons.

The central gaol is situated at Suva, in the direct charge of the Superintendent of Prisons.

There are in addition 17 provincial gaols where short-term prisoners are confined. Constabulary officers and in some instances District Commissioners are superintendents of these gaols.

In provincial gaols the prisoners are principally employed in the maintenance of Government stations, in cutting firewood, or in manning the Government boats. They are also employed in the prison food plantations, where native foodstuffs are grown with a view to reducing the cost of rations. Only a limited number of prisoners are confined in provincial gaols, any surplus being transferred to the central gaol in Suva.

All gaols are visited weekly by the District Commissioner as Visiting Justice who hears complaints and sees that the Prison Regulations are complied with.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

At the central gaol, bread-baking, tailoring, tin-smithing, mat-making, carpentry, gardening, the making of awnings and tarpaulins, and sawmilling are taught.

Bread is supplied from the gaol to all Government institutions in and around Suva. The output for the year was 276,430 lb. of bread.

Firewood cut from the local forests by prisoners and sawn at the central gaol saw-mill, is also supplied to all Government institutions in and around Suva.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

A fully-equipped infirmary is attached to the central gaol at Suva, in the care of a resident Indian medical practitioner, under the supervision of a European medical officer who visits the infirmary three times a week. The health of prisoners during the year was good.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Ministers and priests of the following denominations are authorized to hold weekly services: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, Hindu, Sikh and Moslem. The services are well patronized and the work of these religious institutions is greatly appreciated by the administration. Religious books are available for prisoners at all times.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Juvenile offenders are detained on the island of Makaluva under a European officer who gives them educational instruction and manual training. They are visited regularly by the Superintendent of Prisons as Superintendent of Places of Detention for Juveniles, and quarterly by a Board of Visitors consisting of the Chief Medical Officer, the Director of Public Works, and the Director of Education.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners waiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisoned with hard labour.

STAFF.

The Gaoler and Overseers at the central gaol are Europeans as also are the Superintendents in charge of Provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists of Fijians and Indians.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

There was only one case of corporal punishment inflicted during the year.

XIV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No change has been made during the year in the system of native administration, which is mainly conducted under the Native Regulation of 1927 as amended by Native Regulations of 1929, 1932 and 1935. These Regulations provide for the carrying out of all communal duties such as housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of food crops and maintenance of communal property, care of the sick and control of infectious diseases. They also provide for the levying of rates to defray the expenses of provincial administration, the establishment of native courts for dealing with infringements of the Regulations and offences against the native penal code, and for the constitution of Native District and Provincial Councils and the Great Council of Chiefs. The District Councils are composed of tribal chiefs and village headmen, and are presided over by the Buli of the District. These Councils have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the good Government and welfare of their respective districts and to elect representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. These Councils have power with regard to their respective provinces similar to those enjoyed by District Councils, and also elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. This Council is composed of native officials, Chiefs nominated by the Governor or the Secretary for Native Affairs, and reprsentatives elected by the Provincial Councils. The Council meets every two years and advises the Governor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijian race and nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives in the Legislative Council. This system of Native Councils and Native Courts provides the Fijians with a very fair measure of self-government and ensures an adequate representation of the wishes and aspirations of the natives.

Owing to a well-organized medical service, the general health of the native population during the year was very satisfactory, no epidemics of a serious nature having occurred in any of the provinces. The medical staff is comprised of European Medical officers and nurses, Native and Indian Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses. All Fijians are given free medical and surgical treatment at the General and Provincial Hospitals and at the hands of the European and Native medical officers throughout the Colony.

The Vital Statistics for 1935 reveal an increase in the native population of 1,474, the total population at the end of 1935 being estimated at 99,953 as against 98,479 in 1934. Since the last Census in 1921 there has been an increase of 14,104. A Census is to be taken during April, 1936.

Child Welfare Work has been successfully continued throughout the year and the success attending the efforts of the nurses and their staff is very gratifying. There are five European Infant Welfare Nurses stationed in the provinces of Tailevu, Nandronga, Mathuata, Mba, and Rotuma respectively. In addition, there are fourteen trained Native Child Welfare Nurses stationed in various parts of the Group. Native Women's Committees and other voluntary workers also render valuable assistance in this important branch of the work. The control of this work is in the hands of a Central Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary for Native Affairs, Director of Medical Services, and the District Commissioner, Rewa. District Committees under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner have been formed in each district. There are also Native Women's Committees in most of the Fijian villages. These Committees do very good work and are generally thoroughly interested in the enterprise.

A change has recently been made in the method of education of Fijian children. The work previously done by Missions is now largely taken over by the Provincial Administration. This has had the effect of creating a greater interest by the native chiefs in the organization necessary to produce useful schools. Government assists by grants-in-aid where a school employs registered teachers. The natives do the rest of the financing themselves, in some cases from the Provincial Funds, and in others by local levies. There are many schools throughout the Colony which receive no Government assistance at all. A few boys are sent away to New Zealand or Australia by their parents, some with Government assistance and some without. There is a very real and strong feeling throughout the Colony that the growing generation must be educated to an extent necessary to cope with modern conditions, and to be fitted to compete with other races in the battle for existence.

The Colony was again fortunate in escaping hurricanes and floods during 1935. There was no lack of foodstuffs available for the native population, who for the most part remain dependent on the produce of their land. The market price of copra at the close of the year 1935 was £11 6s. 0d. per ton. The amount of copra exported in 1935 was 26,081 tons (value £220,478) as against 23,520 tons in 1934 (value £127,941).

A total of 142,645 cases and 16,918 bunches of bananas were exported to New Zealand, Australia and Canada during the year. This represents a decrease, owing to the reduction in quota, of 10,116 cases over 1934. The average price paid to Fijian growers per case in 1935 for bananas shipped to New Zealand, Australia and Canada has increased to 3s. 5d. a case for 1935 as against 3s. in 1934 and 2s. 8d. in 1933.

There were 2,997 cases of oranges shipped to New Zealand and 5,793 cases of mandarines. This promises to be a very profitable venture.

The Fijians are gradually taking very kindly to European methods of agriculture and in some provinces loans have been made from Provincial Funds in order to supply the natives with agricultural implements. A large number have also taken up land for the cultivation of sugar-cane as a result of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's successful scheme of settling them on cane lands as tenant farmers. The two Agricultural Training Centres at Navuso (Methodist Mission) and Nanduruloulou (Government) are doing excellent work and are fully justifying the establishment of such institutions.

As the Native population is largely self-governed through the Chiefs with a Provincial Commissioner as the Head of each province, funds are required to meet the cost of this mode of Government. For this purpose a Provincial Rate is levied. Provincial Commissioners are responsible to the Secretary for Native Affairs for the Provincial Funds into which the Provincial Rate is paid, and the amount of Provincial Revenue involved exceeds £19,000 per annum.

The Secretary for Native Affairs has under his charge a Native Deposit Account into which is taken on trust money collected by natives for the purpose of building churches, water supplies, boats, etc. £21,058 is on deposit in this account.

XV.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics and Allied Questions.

No census has been taken since the year 1921, but it is estimated that the Indian population on the 31st December, 1935, was 85,892, being 50,011 males and 35,281 females. The disproportion in numbers of the sexes is slowly being adjusted by natural causes, assisted by the strict control that is now exercised over immigration. During the year there were 3,210 births, representing a birth-rate of 37·7 per 1,000, and 716 deaths, representing a death-rate of 8·10 per 1,000, and the infant mortality rate under five years was 8·30 per centum of live births. The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 2,494, and immigration exceeded emigration by 109 so that the net increase of population for the year was 2,603. The natural increase in population of 2,494 compares favourably with the increase over the same period of 1,748 in the larger native Fijian population, and may be accepted as an indication of the healthy, virile state of the Indian people of Fiji.

In the absence of a recent census it is impossible to arrive at a close estimate of the situation regarding the Provinces of origin in India of Indians in Fiji. The position was surveyed in the Annual Report for 1931, and it may be restated as follows: The great majority of the Indians of Fiji, being either persons who came to the Colony under indenture or their descendants, can trace their origin to the United Central Provinces or to Southern India, a rough estimate of the population derived from each of these sources being 54,384 and 25,208 respectively. During the years which followed the cessation of immigration under indenture a new class of immigrant, consisting almost entirely of males derived from the eastern districts of the Punjab and from the Bombay Presidency, was attracted to the Colony by rumours of high wages and favourable economic conditions generally. Owing to measures adopted to control immigration it is estimated that the numbers of these recent immigrants do not exceed in the case of Punjabis 3,000 and in the case of Gujeratis 2,500. These figures may be taken as a rough estimate of the proportions of the population that have been drawn from the four Provinces in India from which the great bulk of the Fiji Indians have originated. They account in round figures for 85,092 out of a total estimated population of 85,892, and leave a balance of 800 of which the origin is in doubt.

Emigration and Immigration.

Emigration.—Some four years' practical experience of Ordinance No. 24 of 1930 has shown that it has removed most of the difficulties and misunderstandings that formerly existed with regard to repatriation. Very little desire is being evinced by Indians to exercise their repatriation rights, and the number of passengers returned to India by the s.s. *Elephanta* on the 14th November, 1935, at Government expense totalled 163, composed of 101 males and 25 females, and children 37. There also left the Colony by the s.s. *Elephanta* some 152 males, 12 females and 16 children who paid their own passages to India, while those Indians who left the Colony during the year by all other routes numbered 78 males. This brought the total number of Indians who left the Colony during the year up to 421.

Immigration.—A total of 551 Indians entered the Colony by all routes during the year, the number being made up of 408 males and 143 females.

The policy of restricting immigration is carried out with the help of the Government of India under a system of issuing permits to successful applicants and an assurance is obtained that employment awaits all new immigrants. This policy is fully justified by conditions now existing in the Colony.

Economic.

Indians participate in practically every sphere of the economic life of the Colony. In trading occupations they play a more important part as individual traders than as proprietors of large business concerns, but in the matter of road transportation they are by far the largest proprietors and they provide the greatest number of drivers of all classes of vehicles plying for hire. As labourers they are entering the skilled trades in increasing numbers.

Although there is a steady increase in the number of Indian large-scale land owners, the great bulk of the proprietary agricultural population consists of peasant farmers whose holdings are either in the form of direct leases from the native owners, or of sub-tenancies.

By far the greatest number of sub-leases in the sugar areas are let by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to their sugar-cane farmers, but in their case the conditions of the sub-lease provide ample security of tenure for the industrious tenant who is willing, in his own interests, to agree to certain restrictions imposed by the Company with the object of securing profitable crops and of conserving the fertility of the soil. In addition to the opening which it provides for the Indian agriculturists, an immense educational value attaches to the tenant farmer system which has contributed more than any other enterprise towards the general prosperity and advancement of the Indian community. It is estimated that the number of Indians who are dependent both directly and indirectly on the sugar industry is now hardly less than 45,000, approximately 55 per centum of the Indian population of the Colony.

During the 1935 season the Colonial Sugar Refining Company purchased 922,751 tons of sugar-cane from Indian farmers which was cropped off 21,818 acres and yielded to the growers the total sum of £656,104, representing an average price of 14s. 3d. per ton. Of the total area under crop, 21,818 acres which were cultivated by tenant farmers of the Company yielded 505,542 tons, equivalent to 23·2 tons to the acre; 20,455 acres cultivated by independent farmers yielded 412,209 tons, equivalent to 20·4 tons per acre. The difference of 2·8 tons between the yield per acre of the Company's tenants and that of the independent farmers even when account is taken of the better average quality of land owned by the Company, provides an instructive lesson in the value of scientific cultivation.

Most of the crops other than sugar produced by Indians are disposed of in the local markets.

There has been no change in the general level of wages, nor in the conditions of work, and there is little unemployment in the Colony. The opportunities afforded to labourers by the sugar industry are largely seasonal, the greatest number of labourers being employed in the mills and in the field during the cane crushing season. This arrangement is well suited to the needs of the labourers, the great majority of whom are peasant-holders, as it enables them to cultivate their holdings during the parts of the year when the mills are not operating. Field labourers in the sugar areas earn up to 20s. per week, and mill labourers earn from 10s. to 21s. a week. The standard wage in Suva continues to be 2s. 6d. per day, and the wages in the country districts vary between 2s. and 2s. 6d. A small minority only of the population is entirely dependent for its livelihood on cash wages.

Religious and Social.

It is estimated that there are in the Colony 75,700 Hindus (including approximately 5,100 Arya Samajists and 2,100 Sikhs), 8,839 Muslims, 900 Christians, and 450 whose religions have not been determined. Some modification in religious forms has taken place as a result of the new environment of Fiji, and much of the caste system has been discarded. The Colony is not free from sectional strife either between rival Asiatic religions or within the ranks of individual religions. The disunity produced by religious rivalries is perhaps the most serious obstacle in the path of Indian education and advancement.

There is an increasing tendency to resort to legal marriages in preference to those casual unions which have caused so much difficulty and suffering in the past. There were 921 marriages between Indians registered during the year.

In manners, dress, and some other respects there is a tendency to fashion social advancement on the European pattern, and it is difficult at this stage to say how far custom and religion will allow this tendency to progress. Educated Indians, and especially professional men who have come to the Colony from elsewhere, are at a serious disadvantage owing to the difficulty they experience in finding associates in their own race who are intellectually and socially their equal.

Medical and other Services.

Provision is made either directly by Government, or under Government supervision, for the free medical treatment of Indians of limited means.

Indian Paupers.

In the days when the system of labour under indenture was in force, all employees were obliged to contribute towards the Destitute Immigrants Fund, which was expended by the Government on the relief of necessitous Indians. Since the cessation of the indenture system the Government has continuously shouldered the responsibility for the care of Indian paupers, and its efforts in this direction are carried out by the twofold means of distributing outdoor relief, and of maintaining a combined poorhouse and infirmary. In the favourable conditions of Fiji, pauperism is almost entirely confined to a small number of old people and chronic invalids. The total number of persons in receipt of Government assistance during 1935 was 53. The whole system of pauper relief has been carefully thought out, and conforms with the present needs of the Indian community.

Education.

No change has taken place in the Government's policy with regard to Indian education. It has been found impossible in the present state of the Indian community to devise a means of raising a direct levy for educational purposes and no alteration has been made in the system of paying grants towards the cost of maintaining schools where the education attains an approved standard. The grant-in-aid system has the advantage of securing a contribution from Indians, and of giving Indians a share of responsibility in school management, while it retains to the Government a reasonable measure of control over educational standards.

The rolls* of Indian schools contain the names of 4,110 boys and 1,368 girls, as compared with 3,660 boys and 1,140 girls in 1934.

Teachers continued to be trained at the Teachers' Training School in Lautoka, and at institutions belonging respectively to the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions, which are subsidized by the Government.

Administrative.

Indian Advisory Committees have been appointed in eight districts, and the District Commissioners report favourably upon the assistance and advice which they obtain from these Committees.

XVI.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1935, of which the following are the principal :—

The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, following the Criminal Justice Act, 1925, section 47, abolishes the presumption of law that a wife who committed an offence in the presence of her husband was coerced by him. It will still be a good defence, however, to any charge other than murder or treason to prove that in fact the offence was committed in the presence and under the coercion of the husband.

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* These figures include enrolments in unassisted schools.

The Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers) Ordinance, following English legislation, provides that where a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death is pregnant, the sentence passed on her shall be penal servitude for life instead of the death sentence and also provides for the procedure where a woman convicted of a capital offence alleges she is pregnant.

The Infanticide Ordinance, which also follows English legislation, provides that in certain cases a woman who causes the death of her newly-born child may be found guilty of infanticide instead of murder and be punishable as if convicted of manslaughter.

The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, again based on English legislation, enacts that with certain exceptions an existing cause of action shall on the death of any person survive against or for the benefit of his estate and also that the quantum of damages recoverable by the estate of a deceased person is in certain cases limited. In an action against the estate of a deceased person proceedings must be pending at his death or arise within six months after the personal representative took out representation.

The Minimum Wage Ordinance applies to the Colony the provisions of a draft convention relating to minimum wage-fixing machinery adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations in 1928. It empowers the Governor in Council to fix a minimum wage for any occupation either generally or in any specified district if he is satisfied that the wages for that occupation are unreasonably low.

The Children and Young Persons Ordinance repeals and re-enacts the provisions of the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932, with minor amendments and incorporates several sections taken from the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933 (Imperial). The definition of " young person " has been altered by raising the age limit to 17 years. The Ordinance provides that no child under the age of eight shall be guilty of any offence, that the finding of a child or young person guilty of felony shall not impose any disqualifications attaching to felony and also places restrictions on the punishment of children and young persons.

The Public Health Ordinance repeals and re-enacts, with some amendments, most of the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, 1911. Further provisions have been added from legislation of neighbouring Dominions and other Colonies to bring the law up-to-date. The Ordinance now divides the Colony into urban, township and rural sanitary districts and provides that subsidiary legislation shall be enacted by the Central Board of Health. The local authorities may, however, frame appropriate regulations for their districts for submission to the Board. Provisions relating to the protection of food from contamination have been added and the provisions relating to infectious diseases are more comprehensive than those in the repealed Ordinance. A part dealing with venereal diseases has been added which provides that persons suffering from any such diseases must be treated by a medical practitioner until cured and makes it an offence to employ any such persons in hotels, dairies or other places where food or drink is handled. Wider powers have been given to the authorities to endeavour to reduce the mosquito nuisance to a minimum.

The Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance provides machinery for enforcement in the Colony of judgments given in courts of foreign countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in this Colony, and to facilitate the enforcement in foreign countries of judgments given in the Supreme Court of the Colony.

The Mining (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2) mainly provides for the assessment, stamping and registration of documents relating to the disposition of mining tenements. All such documents are to be in writing and are to state the true and full consideration, otherwise they will be fraudulent and void and of no effect either in law or equity.

The Census Ordinance provides the necessary machinery for taking the census in the future. The date on which the census will be taken is to be fixed by proclamation.

The Towns Ordinance is designed to give effect to the decision which has been taken by the legislature to alter the constitution of the Suva Town Council and to substitute a new body corporate to be known as the Suva Town Board for the existing Municipality. Provision is accordingly made for the dissolution of the Municipal Council of Suva, the transfer of its assets to the new Town Board and the position of debenture holders. The new board is to consist of seven official members and two unofficial members from each of the communities—European, Fijian and Indian, all nominated by the Governor. The affairs of any towns constituted in the future are also to be administered by nominated boards.

Particulars of Factory Legislation, Compensation for Accidents Legislation, and Legislative Provisions for Sickness, Old Age, etc.

The Steam Boilers Ordinance 1915 provides for compensation for accidents to persons in connection with steam boilers. The Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1935, empowers the Governor in Council to fix a minimum wage for any occupation either generally or in any district if he is satisfied that the wages for that occupation are unreasonably low.

XVII.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony is shown by the following figures :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Liabilities over Assets.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926 ...	**584,515**	**536,079**	**750,010**	**785,027**	**35,017**	—
1927 ...	**586,574**	**534,939**	**898,491**	**881,752**	—	**16,739**
1928 ...	**709,534**	**567,845**	**597,903**	**439,475**	—	**158,428**
1929 ...	**677,945**	**642,124**	**557,043**	**362,794**	—	**194,249**
1930 ...	**638,763**	**645,291**	**408,971**	**221,250**	—	**187,721**
1931 ...	**565,393**	**605,973**	**452,080**	**304,940**	—	**147,140**
1932 ...	**547,461**	**528,604**	**449,743**	**283,746**	—	**165,997**
1933 ...	**605,201**	**569,984**	**590,660**	**389,446**	—	**201,214**
1934 ...	**782,914**	**722 963**	**770,343**	**509,178**	—	**261,165**
1935 ...	**733,432**	**641,181**	**857,694**	**504,278**	—	**353,416**

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931 but increased at the end of 1934 to £261,165.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1935, was as under :—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928) ...	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929)	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932)	154,996
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 and Ordinance No. 17 of 1934)	182,497
Total (sterling)	£1,273,901

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928 and is redeemable between 1946-53. The stock bears interest at 5 per cent. and was issued at 101.

A second loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorized in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and is redeemable in 1955. During that year, £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. The loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Public Works Loan, sufficient to produce £160,000, was raised in 1932 by the Crown Agents in two instalments, on 2nd August and 3rd November, at the price of £102 and £105 respectively for each £100 of stock. This loan bears interest at 4 per cent. and sinking fund contribution is at the rate of 2·32 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st February, 1959.

The Rewa Bridge Loan of £75,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 (as amended by Ordinance No. 11 of 1931 and Ordinance No. 5 of 1934) and the Public Works Loan of £105,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 17 of 1934 were raised as a single loan of £180,000 by the Crown Agents in November, 1934. Fiji Government Inscribed stock was created to the nominal value of £182,497 of which £120,000 was sold to the market at 99 and the balance was taken up by the Crown Agents at the same price on behalf of various Colonial Government funds. The annual rate of interest is 3 per cent. and the Sinking Fund contribution is at the rate of 1·56 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st December, 1970, with optional redemption, in whole or in part, on or after 1st December, 1960.

The sinking fund in connection with the Specific Loan amounted to £62,416 Fiji at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £23,563 Fiji. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £19,313 Fiji at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan, 1959, amounted to £12,489 Fiji at the close of the year, and for the Public Works Loan, 1960-70, to £3,128 Fiji.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year amounted to £733,432 a decrease of £49,482 as compared with 1934. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows :—

	£
Customs	394,453
Port, wharfage, and light dues	24,768
Native taxes	17,013
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified	100,401
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and reimbursements-in-aid ...	63,938
Post Office	30,965
Rent of Government property	13,357
Interest	40,239
Miscellaneous	13,594
Land sales and premia on leases	—
Colonial Development Fund	11,394
Extraordinary receipts	23,310

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income tax were £24,454, £6,923 and £28,712 respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £22,367. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-Accountant by the end of March each year : penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment.

On most articles subject to *ad valorem* duty the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and benzine on which duties of 9d. and 8d. per gallon respectively are levied irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty :

> Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; Church furniture; infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weedkillers; wire netting, galvanized, of not less than 4 in. mesh; wire galvanized fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries :—

> Animals; birds and fish living; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; periodicals and music printed; coconuts; collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty :—

> Agricultural implements and butter making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem* if of British manufacture and 25 per cent. *ad valorem* if of foreign manufacture;

agricultural machines; sugar making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem.*

The following are some of the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty :—

Ale and beer in bottles, 2s. 6d. a gallon British preferential rate, 4s. 6d. a gallon general rate; confectionery, 3d. a lb. plus 10 per cent. British preferential rate and 6d. a lb. plus 30 per cent. general rate; cornflour, 1d. a lb. and 1½d. a lb.; cinema films free British preferential rate and 3d. per 100 feet general rate; flour, 40s. per ton of 2,000 lb. British preferential rate, 60s. per ton general rate; Sharps, 30s. per ton British preferential rate, 50s. per ton general rate; dried ginger, 1d. a lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; matches, wooden, in boxes containing not more than 60 matches British preferential rate per gross boxes, 4s. 6d., general rate, 6s. 9d. per gross; hops, 1s. a lb. and 2s. a lb.; maize, 6d. a bushel and 10½d. a bushel; malt extract, non spirituous, 1s. a lb. and 1s. 9d. a lb.; meats, 1d. per lb. and 2d. per lb.; oatmeal, 1d. per lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; soap, plain, 1d. a lb. and 2d. a lb.; spices, 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; tea, 6d. a lb. containing no less than 75 per cent. British growth and 9d. a lb.; tobacco, manufactured, 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars, 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes, 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber, rough, 2s. and 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber, dressed, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits, 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines, still, 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines, sparkling, 10s. and 15s. a gallon; macaroni and vermicelli, 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.

The following are the principal articles which are subject to alternative rates of duty :—

Bicycles, preferential rate 15s. each or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty. General rate 30s. each or 40 per cent.

Boots and shoes, rubber and canvas, British preferential rate 6d. to 1s. per pair according to sizes or 20 per cent. *ad valorem.* General rate 1s. 7½d. to 2s. 1½d. or 40 per cent.

Textile piece-goods, British preferential rate 1d. to 3d. per yard according to width or 20 per cent. General rate 2d. to 6d. or 40 per cent.

Hats and caps, men's and boys', British preferential rate 6d. each or 20 per cent., general rate 1s. or 40 per cent.

Shirts, British preferential rate 4s. to 6s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. to 12s. or 40 per cent.

Singlets or undervests, sizes up to 28 inches, per dozen, 1s. preferential rate, general rate 2s., sizes exceeding 28 inches, per dozen, 2s. preferential rate and 4s. general rate; or *ad valorem* 20 per cent. preferential rate, 40 per cent. general rate, whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Towels, bath and face, exceeding 24 inches in length, British preferential rate 2s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 4s. or 40 per cent.

Umbrellas, parasols and sunshades, each, British preferential rate 6d., general rate 1s., or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Electric lamp bulbs, incandescent filament, having, at the marked voltage, a power consumption—

Not exceeding 8 watts, each, British preferential rate 1d., general rate 2d.

Exceeding 8 watts and not exceeding 80 watts each, British preferential rate 2d., general rate 4d.

Exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 3d., general rate 6d. or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Wrapping paper, British preferential rate 5s. per cwt. or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. 9d. or 40 per cent.

Spirits, perfumed and scented waters, British preferential rate 26s. and 10 per cent. per liquid gallon or 20 per cent., general rate 39s. per gallon and 25 per cent. or 40 per cent.

During 1935, owing to improved financial conditions in the Colony it was possible to reduce the rate of duty on certain foodstuffs, some of which were :—

Ale and beer, bottled, reduced from 4s. per gallon British preferential rate and 6s. per gallon general rate, to 2s. 6d. per gallon British and 4s. 6d. per gallon general rate; fish, from 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. to 10 per cent. and 30 per cent.; sharps and pollard, from 40s. and 60s. per ton to 30s. and 50s. per ton; meats from 2d. and 3d. per lb. to 1d. and 2d. per lb.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff but aims at fostering, as far as possible, local industries, and in this regard affords protection to the rice industry by imposing a duty of £2 per ton under the British preferential rate and £3 per ton under the foreign rate, and provides, further, that if the cost, duty paid and landed at a Customs shed at a port of entry in the Colony, falls below £15 per ton, the duty shall be increased by such amount as shall bring such landed cost duty paid to £15 per ton. It provides, further, for the admission free of duty of bags and sacks over two bushels.

Protection is also afforded to the local butter industry by the imposition of a duty of 4d. per pound on all fresh butter imported and provides for the admission free of duty of boxes of wood made up or in shooks to be used as containers of butter the produce of the Colony.

The soap industry is also protected by a duty of 1d. per pound under the British preferential rate and 2d. per pound under the general tariff rate on soap, laundry, in bar or cake, and sandsoap, and, with a view to affording further assistance to this industry the tariff was recently amended providing for the admission free of duty of resin and tallow of British manufacture, which previously paid a duty of 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively.

XVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Before the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to reassessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to reassessment in the 33rd and 66th years, or in the 30th and 60th years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to reassessment in the 25th and 50th years. In all cases the rent is subject to reassessment to a maximum not exceeding 5 per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas in country districts are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1935 :—

			In process of alienation.			
Nature of title.	*No. of titles.*	*Area.*	*No. of lots.*	*Estimated area.*	*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
Freeholds	**1,593**	**532,630**	**1**	**9**	**532,639**	—
Leases of Crown land	**778**	**21,050**	**47**	**833**	**21,883**	—
Leases of Native land	**7,831**	**305,283**	**240**	**6,022**	**311,305**	—
			Total	**... ...**	**865,827**	**4,523,620**

Five hundred and forty-three applications for leases of native lands aggregating 9,936 acres were received during the year. Of these 227 applications for 2,673 acres were approved and 227 applications for 4,888 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 94 per cent. of the total. Seventy applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 1,244 acres. Of these 47 applications for 457 acres were approved and 20 applications for 738 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Matanggali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, and two native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land, and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. The Commission commenced the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of land-owners of illegitimate birth in the Provinces of Lautoka (Yasawas), Mathuata and Thakaundrove during the year under review. Enquiries were continued by Ratu Sukuna in the Province of Lau. The office staff of the Commission continued the preparation of the various registers of native lands and native land-owners.

SURVEY.

The survey staff attached to the Native Lands Commission was reduced by the transfer of one officer to the Public Works Department in April, and the effective strength during 1935 was 11 European surveyors and three native assistants. Surveyors were employed in the provinces of Tholo North, Tailevu, Namosi, Serua, Tholo West, Lautoka (Yasawas) and Thakaundrove. The area surveyed during the year amounted to 321,011 acres, bringing the total area surveyed for the Native Lands Commission since 1912 to 3,485,432 acres.

The strength of the survey staff of the Lands and Survey Department was maintained at five officers. Two senior members of the staff were employed almost continuously in administrative work at headquarters, in the examination of plans, and in alignment surveys for the Suva Municipal Council. The remaining members of the staff were employed in country districts in the survey of leased lands, standard traverse surveys, the design and subdivision of Indian settlements, and other miscellaneous work. Nine miles of main and subsidiary traverse surveys were carried out in the Province of Tholo North and Viti Levu, and in the island of Taveuni. Instructions for the survey of leases of native and Crown lands were issued by the Crown Surveyor to six surveyors in private practice. Two hundred and ninety-one plans of surveys made by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations were taken twice daily throughout the year at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Local Standard Time in conformity with the international hours of observation. The new times have also been adopted by Pacific Island Weather Stations, and the daily bulletins which are broadcast from Suva Radio conform to the scheme adopted by the International Meteorological Conference at Copenhagen in 1929.

During the second half of the year rainfall increased from 0·39 in. below normal to 44·11 in. above normal, the total for the year being 163·62 in. The year 1935 is the fourth wettest year on record, the wettest year being 1921 when 170·74 in. were recorded. The year will not only be remembered as one of excessive rainfall, but also as one of almost continuous cloudy, overcast and gloomy weather.

In the table below, the total rainfall at certain stations in the Group is given, together with the averages over a period of years.

Station.	*No. of years.*	*Total Rainfall.*	*Average Rainfall.*
Lakemba	10	51·92	74·74
Lambasa	41	92·10	81·41
Lautoka	35	86·44	69·81
Levuka	41	107·99	90·83
Salialevu	20	224·65	207·65
Suva	51	163·62	119·51
Wainunu	56	166·61	147·74

General.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited the Colony in February on his return from Australia. The traditional native ceremonies were performed in his honour, and His Royal Highness was enabled to see various sides of native life.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., was absent from the Colony from 8th March to 7th August, during which time Mr. A. A. Wright, Secretary for Native Affairs, administered the Government, the substantive post of Colonial Secretary being temporarily vacant.

Sessions of the Legislative Council were held in May, November, and December. The greatest interest attached to a proposal that the present elective system for European and Indian unofficial members should be abolished and that all members of the Council, official and unofficial, should be nominated by the Governor. The matter was debated both in the May and November sessions, the proposal being carried each time (official members not voting), and on many public platforms and in the press.

The Suva Municipal Council has been replaced by a Town Board, nominated by the Governor, which gives an official majority and provides for unofficial representation with equal numbers for European, Fijian, and Indian on the Board.

The Municipal Council of Levuka was unable to continue the administration in the face of the falling trade and revenues of the town, and the Council has therefore been replaced by a Board appointed under the Townships Ordinance and a Government grant has been made to supplement the revenue of the Board.

The Silver Jubilee was fittingly celebrated throughout the Colony.

Great interest was shown in the centenary celebrations of the Methodist Mission, the first missionaries to visit Fiji having landed in 1835.

In December, His Excellency the Governor unveiled at Levuka a commemorative stone placed on the site where the Cession of the islands was formally made on 10th October, 1874. Representative Chiefs from the whole of Fiji were present, including a few who had been present at the Cession in 1874.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publisher or Agents.*	*Price.*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	**Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.) ... ...**	**6s.**
Viti. By Berthold Seeman ...	**Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London. 1862 ... ...**	**10s.**
King and People of Fiji. By Rev. J. Waterhouse.	**Wesleyan Conference Office. 1866 ... ...**	
Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	**Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904...**	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson ...	**Heineman, London. 1905**	**25s.**
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	**Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922 ...**	**21s.**
Journal of William Lockerby ...	**Hakluyt Society, Cambridge University Press. 1925 ... ...**	
Journal of Thomas Williams. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	**Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 2 vols. 1931 ... ...**	
Fiji and Fijians, 1835-1856. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	**Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London ... ...**	**25s.**
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	**Murray, London. 1933 ...**	**15s.**

The following official publications can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W. 1, or from the Government Printer, Suva.

The Colony of Fiji—1874-1931. Lib. edition, 3s. Mag. edition, 2s.

Annual Blue Book, 1935. 5s.

Census Report, 1921. 5s.

Forests of the Colony of Fiji—Report by Mr. R. A. Sykes (without maps). 2s.

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, 1935. 2s.

Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture, 1935. 1s.

The Agricultural Journal, published half-yearly or more frequently if required, is obtainable from the Director of Agriculture, Suva. 1s. per copy.

Postage is charged extra on all official publications.

A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—1874-1936."

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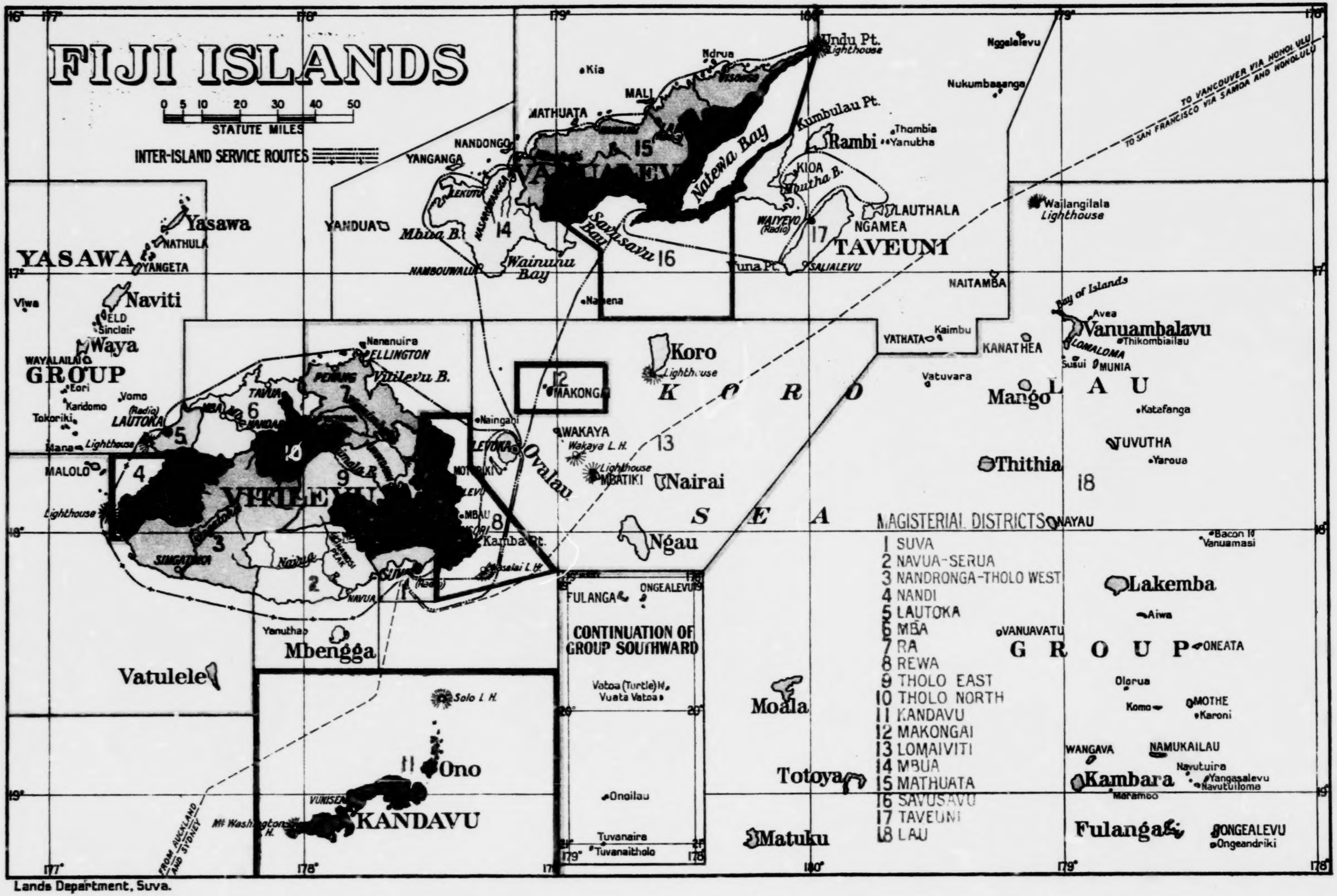
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji, which is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean, is composed of a group of some 250 islands, which lie between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east. Only about 80 of these islands are inhabited. The largest island is Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanua Levu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kandavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, which is situated on the south-east side of Viti Levu, is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. Fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called "soapstone") and limestones are extensively found on Viti Levu. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nambukelevu, on Kandavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Viti Levu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korombasambasanga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanua Levu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate of Fiji is oceanic. The south-east trade-wind blows from May to November and during the remaining months the direction of the wind is variable. Between December and April when hot northerly winds blow from the Equator the temperature may occasionally rise as high as 96° F. and the humidity may reach saturation point. The total average annual rainfall varies in the well defined "wet" and "dry" zones from 60 to 140 in. and the temperature varies from a minimum of 60° F. to a maximum of 96° F.

The highest temperature in the shade at Suva in 1936 was 94° F. on the 24th March, and the lowest 63° F. on the 1st August. In 1936, in the "wet" zone, the mean minimum shade temperature was 72·3° F. and the mean maximum 83·2° F., with a mean humidity of 81·6 per cent. In the "dry" zone the corresponding temperature figures were 69·9° F. and 85·7° F. and the mean humidity considerably less. The capital, Suva, is situated in the "wet" zone. The total rainfall at Suva was 163·62 in. and in Lautoka 62·44 in. The average annual rainfall for Suva is 119·70 in. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of a voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef-strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Undu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of Vatoa, one of the most southerly islands in the Group, and the neighbouring waters in 1774, and Blight, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of 39 islands, including the principal island of Viti Levu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive, though somewhat inaccurate, chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work "Discoveries of the Fiji Islands." (*See* Appendix.)

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza,* with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Mbau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Mbau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman, named Connor, attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Mbau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanua Levu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter,* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakemba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal state. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Thakaundrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Mbau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Mbauans, who by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Mbau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Mbau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Thakombau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Thakombau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Thakombau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Thakombau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledged, ratified and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton caused by the American Civil War led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Mbauan Chief, Thakombau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and subsequently the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands made by the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Thakombau, the Chief of Mbau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Group, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 9th February, 1929, as amended by Letters Patent of the 26th November, 1930, 24th March, 1932, 19th July, 1935, and 15th July,

1936. The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members. Pending determination of the revision of the constitution of the Legislative Council, the Letters Patent were amended in 1935 extending the then existing Council for twelve months from the 29th July, 1935. On the 15th July, 1936, Letters Patent were passed extending the life of the Council to the 31st December, 1936, on which date a further extension to the 14th July, 1937, was made by Proclamation.

The Legislative Council at present consists of the Governor as President, thirteen nominated members, six European elected members, three native members and three Indian elected members. The nominated members must be persons holding public office in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European members are elected by male persons of European descent, who are British subjects, who can read, write and speak the English language, and who are possessed of a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted every three years by the Great Council of Native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of Indian electors are that they must be male British subjects, of Indian descent, of 21 years of age and upwards and able to pass a simple test either in English or in one of the five main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

The administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka was transferred, by Ordinance No. 15 of 1935, from elected Councils to Nominated Boards.

Levuka was proclaimed a Township under the Townships Ordinance of 1928 with effect from 1st July, 1935.

The Towns Ordinance was passed in December, 1935, and provides for the appointment of a Suva Town Board, to consist of seven official members, two European unofficial members, two Fijian unofficial members, and two Indian unofficial members, all of whom are to be nominated by the Governor.

The Town Board is responsible for the administration of the town of Suva, having jurisdiction over sanitation and public health markets, slaughter houses, traffic regulations, and building construction. The Board levies rates and also collects licence fees from businesses carried on within the town. The electricity supply of Suva is under the management of the Town Board.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are three proclaimed townships in the Colony, Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, Nausori in the district of Rewa, and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1935, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the Chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The sytem of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XIV, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Mbau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Mbauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of 2,740, an entirely different language is spoken which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number over 85,000, a form of Hindustani, which pays little attention to grammar, is generally used, although

Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Caranese languages, or dialects, are also spoken. It is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of approximately 1,750 speak Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Fiji on the 26th April, 1936, the date of the Census, was as follows:—

> Europeans, 4,028; Persons of European and Native descent, 4,574; Fijians, 97,651; Polynesians, 737; Melanesians, 1,616; Micronesians, 126; Indians, 85,002; Rotumans, 2,816, Chinese, 1,751; Japanese, 62; Others, 16; making a total population of 198,379. Of this total, Fijians comprised 49·22 per cent., Indians 42·85 per cent., and Europeans 2·03 per cent.

On the date of the Census the density of population was 28·1 per square mile.

On the 31st December, 1936, the total estimated population was 201,086 and the density of population was estimated at 27·04 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population was estimated at 0·38 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population was 203·14 to the square mile.

There were 7,634 births registered during the year, which was an increase of 304 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1929 to 1936:—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Europeans ...	19·88	16·94	17·20	16·04	16·03	8·82	12·56	15·39
P.E.N.D. ...	35·96	30·30	43·82	38·61	39·88	24·21	42·12	34·44
Fijians ...	31·91	36·43	35·34	34·32	35·10	37·52	36·53	37·80
Rotumans ...	50·75	54·91	46·95	39·47	50·38	36·83	51·54	38·33
Indians ...	34·86	36·02	33·45	38·44	38·67	37·19	37·37	40·15

There were 4,056 deaths registered during the year, which was 965 more than in 1935. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1929 to 1936:—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Europeans ...	8·46	9·45	9·09	6·79	8·74	6·93	6·89	7·93
P.E.N.D. ...	9·44	14·70	11·03	9·86	9·01	9·15	8·53	11·19
Fijians ...	24·66	31·24	22·22	17·88	17·72	19·78	21·79	28·03
Rotumans ...	48·10	27·03	14·54	19·12	24·99	46·04	26·94	23·56
Indians ...	9·06	12·30	10·19	8·40	11·37	10·15	8·10	12·32

The deaths under one year per thousand births were:—Europeans, 31·25; persons of European and Native descent, 62·50; Fijians, 140·51; Indians, 81·23; Rotumans, 146·79; Total, 109·81.

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1929 to 1936:—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Europeans ...	46	33	38	32	27	32	32	31
P.E.N.D. ...	28	21	18	23	40	33	37	32
Fijians ...	973	744	1,085	766	833	778	838	817
Rotumans ...	27	15	29	25	26	16	28	29
Indians ...	879	1,926	954	911	1,071	1,038	921	903

The marriage rates per thousand of the population were:—Europeans, 7·45; persons of European and Native descent, 6·89; Fijians, 8·31; Indians, 10·41; Rotumans, 10·20; Total 9·09.

A return of the population and of the marriages, births, and deaths is appended.

RETURN of the POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.	Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.	Aliens and Resident Strangers not included in preceding Columns.	Population to the square mile.	Persons employed in			Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.				Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.	Professional and Commercial.	Number.	Rate ‡ per 1,000.		Number.	Rate per 1,000.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 26th April, 1936.																
Europeans—																
Fiji ...	7,421	2,254	1,756	—	—	4,028	—	0·54	253	583	1,182	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	14	9	9	—	—											
P.E.N.D.—																
Fiji ...	—	—	—	2,297	2,227	4.574	—	0·62	228	666	304	—	—	—	—	—
Rotuma ...	—	—	—	28	22											
Fijians ...	—	—	—	49,869	47,782	97,651	—	13·13	1,783*	1,855*	3,081*	—	—	—	—	—
Indians ...	—	—	—	48,246	36,756	85,002	—	11·43	17,960	2,065	3,024	—	—	—	—	—
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,024	451	1,475	—	0·20	261	81	96	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,413	1,403	2,816	—	0·38	2	33	128	—	—	—	—	—
Chinese ...	—	—	—	1,476	275	1,751	—	0·24	298	203	538	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	—	—	—	578	504	1,082	—	0·15	36	91	70	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7.435	2,203	1,765	104,931	89,420	198,379	—	26·69	20,821	5.577	8,423	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1936.																
Europeans...	—	2,311	1,848	—	—	4,159	—	0·56	—	—	—	64	15·39	31	33	7·93
P.E.N.D. ...	—	—	—	2,365	2,281	4,646	—	0·62	—	—	—	160	34·44	32	52	11·19
Fijians ...	—	—	—	50,126	48,165	98,291	—	13·22	—	—	—	3,715	37·80	817	2,755	28·03
†Polynesians	—	—	—	1,009	453	1,462	—	0·20	—	—	—	26	17·78	3	45	30·78
Indians ...	—	—	—	49,120	37,658	86,778	—	11·67	—	—	—	3,484	40·15	903	1,069	12·32
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	1,425	1,419	2,844	—	0·38‡	—	—	—	109	38·33	29	67	23·56
Chinese ...	—	—	—	1,504	288	1,792	—	0·24	—	—	—	20	11·16	—	15	8·37
Others ...	—	—	—	590	524	1,114	—	0·15	—	—	—	56	50·27	13	20	17·95
Totals ...	—	2,311	1,848	106,139	90,788	—	—	27·04	—	—	—	7,634	37·96	1,828	4,056	20·17
Grand Total	—	—	—	—	—	201,086	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

† "Polynesians" is here used to define immigrants introduced into this Colony under the Polynesian Immigration Ordinance 1888, and their offspring.

‡ Includes Fiji with the Island of Rotuma. The actual population to the square mile in the Island of Rotuma is 203·14.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the Police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1936:—

EMIGRATION—1936.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,448	4,028	60·77
Indians	513	85,002	·603
Chinese	84	1,751	4·79
Pacific Islanders ...	90	107,520	·083
Others	30	78	38·36

IMMIGRATION—1936.

Class.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,526	4,028	62·43
Indians	650	85,002	·764
Chinese	100	1,751	5·71
Pacific Islanders ...	117	107,520	·108
Others	17	78	21·79

The above figures include a number of tourists who stay for short periods.

IV.—HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of sixteen medical officers under the direct control of the Director of Medical Services. A Pathologist has charge of a laboratory which is attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

Suva, Lautoka and Levuka are first ports of entry for overseas shipping, but the first named is the only port equipped for the fumigation of shipping against rats and mosquitoes. The port health staff at Suva consists of the Medical Officer of Health, two qualified European Inspectors, one Fijian and two Indian, locally qualified, Sanitary Inspectors, one Fijian Sanitary Inspector in training and one rat-catcher. During the year pratique was granted to 147 vessels (registered net tonnage, 796,058) entering the Port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 3,785 passengers and 2,662 members of crews. In the town of Suva the Medical Officer of Health acts in an advisory capacity on health matters to the Town Board, which employs one European Sanitary Inspector to look after the sanitation of the town, the inspector is also sewerage engineer.

In the country districts the control of health and sanitation is in the hands of twelve District Medical Officers, sixty-one Native Medical Practitioners and six Indian Medical Practitioners. There are also three European Sanitary Inspectors, one Indian Sanitary Inspector and seven Indian Sanitary Assistants.

A system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 142 beds, 31 cots, and 8 beds in lazarette, an operating theatre and an X-ray plant, and caters for all classes of the community. During the year 3,074 persons were admitted, the daily average number of in-patients being 124·83. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The New Zealand Registration Board accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examination. The medical and nursing staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, an Assistant Medical Superintendent, a Matron, an Assistant Matron, five trained Sisters, thirteen European Probationer Nurses and a Nurse-Housekeeper. In addition there are 21 native nurses in training. The third and fourth year medical students from the Central Medical School complete their medical studies here, by acting as dressers and clinical clerks in the various wards, and receive clinical demonstrations before qualifying. The Medical Superintendent is Director of Clinical Studies.

The Methodist Mission conducts a hospital for Indian women at Mba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Mba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are fourteen provincial hospitals and some twenty-nine dispensaries in the Colony, where Fijians and Indians may obtain treatment. Fijians are treated free of charge and Indians are required to pay the sum of 1s. for any medicines or dressings provided.

At a cost of approximately £6,000, £3,700 of which was given by the Rockefeller Foundation, a new Pathological Laboratory was erected in Suva during the year. The Pathologist is assisted by a European technician and a staff of natives. The building is of ferro-concrete and is fully equipped to deal with pathological, bacteriological, parasitological and biochemical work. Provision has also been made for veterinary bacteriology and pathology. The majority of vaccines used by the Medical Department are now manufactured in the laboratory. Recently a further donation of £500 has been made by the Rockefeller Foundation towards the purchase of special biochemical apparatus.

The former Fiji Medical School (1888 to 1928) at which only a limited number of Fijian students were trained in the vernacular was, in 1928, replaced by the Central Medical School, which receives native medical students from the various island groups in the South Pacific. The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and equipment of the school buildings.

The teaching staff consists of a whole-time Principal with fourteen honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students, who are all boarders, include seventeen Fijians, three Indians, five Samoans, four Tongans, five Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, four Solomon Islanders, three Cook Islanders and one each from the New Hebrides and Nauru Island, making a total of forty-three on the 31st December.

The School is under the control of the Central Medical School Advisory Board, with the Director of Medical Services as Chairman, and the Principal of the School is Secretary to the Advisory Board. The syllabus of instruction now covers a period of four years and is divided into three sections: the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy and physiology; and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, midwifery, etc. The students are known as junior students in the first two sections, and as senior students in the third and final section.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as Native Medical Practitioners, and they are then given appointments in country districts, or are attached to a hospital under a European Medical Officer. A subordinate medical service in Fiji has thus been created consisting of sixty-two native medical practitioners and seven Indian medical practitioners. In addition, the Central Medical School has already turned out thirty similarly qualified native medical practitioners who are in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides and the British Solomon Islands.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of a Central Executive Committee, has been firmly established in the Colony since 1927. In practically every village Child Welfare Committees have been established, each of which is responsible to the Child Welfare Worker in charge of the district. There are four trained European Nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by fourteen specially trained Native

Nurses. District Medical Officers and Native Medical Practitioners make inspections and co-operate with the Child Welfare Workers. Native Medical Practitioners are given special training in Child Welfare in order to be able to render this service to their own people in the country districts.

Infant mortality among Fijian children under the age of five years during the years 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936 is as follows:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Under one month	88	99	99	98
Over one month, under one year ...	244	368	462	424
Over one year, under five years ...	174	290	358	514

The increase in infant death-rate is largely due to epidemics of whooping cough, dysentery and measles.

Health and Sanitation.

Dysentery was prevalent throughout the year, with a slight decrease during the cool weather, it then showed an increase on the north coast of Viti Levu and in the Rewa delta. Measles in a mild form was epidemic throughout the Colony during the year.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—During the first and second quarters, 400 and 492 cases respectively were notified, and in the third and fourth quarters, 337 and 516 respectively. The cases were chiefly of the Shiga variety. Clinically the type was less severe than that experienced in the epidemic of 1929-30, the general mortality rate being 8 per cent. A total of 1,745, including 41 amoebic, cases were notified for the year. From specimens submitted to the Bacteriological Laboratory from cases occurring in the Suva district, the following results were obtained:—

Shiga	34
Schmitz	12
Flexner	22
Sonne	5
Negative	12

Diphtheria.—Clinical diphtheria is not common. Twenty-one cases of sore throat, usually mild in degree, were reported for the Colony, with the presence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus in more or less pure culture.

(*Epidemic*) *Dropsy.*—Only one case was notified as occurring during 1936 in contrast with 15 cases the previous year. The patient was an Indian resident in the Tavua district.

Typhoid.—180 cases were reported for the Colony as compared with 109 in 1935 and 58 in 1934: these included 38 cases for the Suva area. All cases bacteriologically positive proved to be typhosus infections and no endogenous case of a paratyphoid infection came to light.

Leprosy.—On the island of Makongai there is a modern leper hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, and 15 European and 10 Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, and lepers are also received from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and the Cook and Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The cost of the institution is borne by the various participating Administrations proportionately to the number of their patients. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients, while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by Nursing Sisters.

Admissions during 1936	60
Repatriation of Indians	6
Conditional discharges	20
Deaths	54
Number of patients at the end of 1936 ...	555

Since 1911 there have been 2,004 admissions, 363 conditional discharges, 62 re-admissions (many of which have been on account of trophic ulceration rather than for reactivation of the disease) and 16 cases have been re-discharged.

Miscellaneous.

Drinking water.—Suva town and a portion of its rural area has a piped supply, whose intake is in the hills with no human habitation in the vicinity. It is tested at regular intervals. In other parts the usual sources of rural supplies are tapped.

Food control and dairies.—Twenty-seven dairies were registered during the year within the rural district of Suva. Detailed surveys were made of all dairy premises in the sanitary district, and 122 notices were served to carry out improvements.

Milk.—The milk supply is sampled by inspectors of the Central Board of Health. Two summonses, one for selling milk from unregistered premises and one for permitting untested cattle to remain in a dairy herd resulted in convictions with total fines imposed, £31.

Tuberculin testing of cattle.—Of 779 cattle in registered dairy herds in the Suva district tuberculin tested by Government Veterinary Officers, only seven or 0·898 per cent. gave positive reactions. In total herds of 1,508 cattle tuberculin tested, 85 (5·63 per cent.) gave positive reactions.

Slaughter-houses.—In the Suva district two slaughter-houses were registered during the year, which were visited regularly. Of 4,653 carcases inspected, 107 (2·3 per cent. including 80 ruminants (2·4 per cent. of total ruminants), and 19 porcines (1·8 per cent. of total porcines), were condemned as unfit for human consumption, generalised tuberculosis being the chief cause of condemnation; in addition 1,836 organs, etc., were condemned for various reasons.

There were no legal proceedings in connection with slaughter-houses during the year.

Sanitation Campaign.

The Soil Sanitation Campaign, for the installation of latrines fitted with cement tops, was continued during the year. The work has been carried out, chiefly amongst the native towns in the provinces of Tailevu and Naitasiri, and in the Indian settlements of Lambasa on the Island of Vanua Levu. Re-surveys were made of some of the districts completed prior to 1936, and latrines renewed where necessary. During the year 1,996 new latrines were completed and 1,853 cement tops supplied.

The total number of this type of latrine installed in the Colony up to the 31st December, 1936, is 17,760.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva the Town Board is the Local Authority, the Medical Officer of Health being a member and chairman of its Health Committee.

The sanitary duties are carried out under the supervision of the Board's Sanitary Inspector, the control of infectious diseases being the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health as executive officer of the Central Board of Health.

Town-planning and Building Regulations.—The business part of the town of Suva is changing from a collection of temporary premises erected without much attention to future requirements. Permanent buildings in concrete are springing up at the more important sites and this calls for careful town-planning and adequate building regulations if expensive mistakes are to be avoided. The laying down of improved and wider roads has done much to improve the appearance of parts of the business area.

The European settlements at Vatuwangga and Lami are proving popular and their boundaries are extending.

Roads.

The new transinsular road and the opening of the Suva-Singatoka section, expected in 1938, will provide a circular road around Viti Levu and should prove a distinct asset to the health of the community, providing as it does ready access to the higher and cooler parts of the island.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.

The production of sugar, the principal industry of the Colony, is conducted by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, which operates five mills, purchases all the cane produced and disposes of the sugar and by-products. The production of sugar cane is mainly in the hands of East Indians who farm small holdings under lease from and under the supervision of the Company, but the remunerative returns obtained tend to attract increasing numbers of Fijians to this crop. It is reported that some 1,131 Fijians were employed in the cultivation of sugar cane in 1936 compared with 833 for the previous year.

The Company maintains a trained staff for the direction of pest control and research and new varieties of cane are introduced for trial from time to time.

The areas cultivated and the production of cane for the past three cropping seasons have been:—

	Area. Acres.	*Production. Tons.*
1933–4	44,712	868,438
1934–5	42,899	815,139
1935–6	46,426	1,016,704

The Company has under consideration the establishment of a training farm for Fijian youths with the object that they may, while still receptive, acquire a practical training in agriculture.

Copra.

The production of copra stands second to sugar in the industrial life of the Colony. Market values which reached the very low average level of £4 2s. 6d. per ton in Suva in 1934, appreciated to £7 6s. 6d. in 1935 and to £9 5s. 4d. in 1936.

Two-thirds of the production is in the hands of Fijians who utilize their hereditary lands, large areas of which are self-sown, for production of copra. In the main the methods of drying are primitive with the result that poor quality copra is produced. In an endeavour to improve the grade of Native-produced copra the Government has encouraged the erection of a small cheap type of hot air drier and considerable progress in this direction has been made during the year under review.

The larger European-owned estates have experienced difficulty during the past few years in securing adequate supplies of labour and, in view of the paucity of population and the demands made on the labour market by the gold mining industry, the future is certain to become increasingly difficult for such estates.

A number of minor outbreaks of disease were reported during the year. In all cases parasites were found to be present.

Exports and values of copra for the past three years have been:—

	Tons.	Value.
		£
1934	23,526	127,941
1935	26,081	220,478
1936	34,581	406,393

Bananas.

The Dominion of New Zealand continues to be almost the sole market for Fijian bananas. The Commonwealth of Australia provided a large market for this fruit until the year 1921, when the imposition of a tariff charge of 8s. 4d. per cental, in the interests of the Australian industry, caused the total loss of this market to Fiji. Under the terms of the Ottawa agreement the Australian Government agreed to the importation of 40,000 centals of Fijian bananas at a reduced tariff charge of 2s. 6d. per cental. The large Australian production which gluts the market and high taxation and exchange which exporters are required to bear render the market unprofitable except for small quantities at times when the local fruit is in short supply.

Until the disastrous fall in copra values during the depression Fiji was almost the sole supplier of bananas to New Zealand. The depression in the copra industry necessitated the extension of agricultural activities by other South Pacific Administrations, and Fiji soon became faced with strong competition especially from the Mandated Territory of Samoa. The volume of exports of bananas to New Zealand in 1932 was so great in relation to the demands of the market that profitable trading became impossible and a restriction scheme agreed upon by all the supplying territories and the New Zealand Government was adopted. This scheme, known as the quota system, has operated since August, 1932, and has provided much needed stability to the industry.

The shipment of bananas to Vancouver, Canada, which was commenced in 1934, was continued throughout the year under review. The development of this trade is restricted to the limited cool storage accommodation which is made available in the Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line steamers.

The Fijians continue to be the principal producers of bananas, some 90·2 per cent. of the exports being supplied from areas cultivated by natives compared with 85·4 per cent. in 1935 and 79 per cent. in 1934.

The interests of both producers and exporters are protected under the provisions of the Fruit Export Ordinance, 1906, and comprehensive regulations made thereunder. The prices paid to growers are fixed from time to time by a Board representative of both growers and buyers. The prices fixed are based on realizations in the markets abroad and endeavours are made to avoid violent fluctuations which are not understood by the Natives. The average price paid for native grown fruit was approximately 3s. 4d. per case compared with 3s. 2d. per case for 1935 and 3s. per case for 1934.

Exports for 1936 were as follows:—

	Cases.	*Bunches.*	*Total. Equivalent in Cases.*
To New Zealand ...	157,831	356	158,009
,, Canada	60	18,834	9,477
,, Australia	1,136	714	1,493
Total ...	159,027	19,904	168,979

Citrus.

The production of citrus fruits in Fiji is from self-sown trees in and about Fijian towns, consequently there are wide variations in quality, especially in the oranges. The production and distribution of good quality budded stock from the Nasinu Citrus Research Station is proceeding and it is proposed that when this material reaches production the existing sources of supply should be destroyed.

The Fijian mandarins are of excellent quality and form the bulk of the small citrus exports of the Colony.

The export of citrus fruits is handled by a voluntary association of the shippers in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture which undertakes the grading and packing of the fruit.

Exports during 1936 amounted to 869 cases of oranges and 3,224 cases of mandarins.

Rice.

Rice is the staple diet of the Indians who constitute nearly half the total population of the Colony, but large continuous areas of rice, such as are found in most rice producing countries, hardly exist, most of the plantings being in isolated plots of a few acres and entirely dependent on a very variable rainfall. There are, however, a few areas of a couple of hundred acres.

The past two rice seasons have been very adverse. Owing to the unsuitable incidence of rainfall, planting was seriously retarded, drought in some areas and very heavy rains in other areas were detrimental to the young plantings and crops were in consequence heavily decimated and in some cases not deemed worth harvesting. In some important areas crops only averaged

25 per cent. of the normal. Rats and pigs did considerable damage in certain areas and elsewhere grasses and other weeds were prevalent.

In consequence of the two unfavourable seasons in succession the annual imports of rice for 1936 (3,258 tons) were greatly in excess of the normal of the past five years and the cost of local and of imported rice varied between £17 and £20 per ton throughout the year.

With the purpose of encouraging local rice production the import tariff was continued throughout the year. This tariff is variable and is directed at maintaining the cost of imported rice at a minimum of £15 per ton.

The present season which commenced in October and November is promising well and it is estimated that the area under cultivation will exceed all previous plantings. With the improvement of transport facilities some new areas are being brought under rice cultivation and such areas are being encouraged by the erection of small rice mills, but there is great scope for additional areas of rice.

The importation of rice during 1936 amounted to 3,258 tons.

Tobacco.

A considerable quantity of tobacco is grown in small areas, principally by Indians, but there is as yet practically no production on commercial lines. Experiments which have been in progress at an experimental station indicate that with proper cultural methods, and with attention to harvesting and curing a good tobacco of cigar filler type can be grown and officers of the Department of Agriculture have given instruction in these matters during the year. The Department of Agriculture purchased a quantity of leaf from which was manufactured " stick " tobacco for sale to labourers and satisfactory local sales have been made. Some thousands of cigars made at the Singatoka Experimental Station found ready sales locally.

Pineapples.

Owing to strong Australian competition in the New Zealand market the export of fresh pineapples was negligible.

The canning of pineapple juice and " crush " was carried on in a small way at Ovalau during the year and it is understood that the undertaking could not meet the requirements of the market. Exports of juice and " crush " amounted to 43,071 lb. in 1936.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited has decided to commence pineapple canning operations and large scale nurseries have already been planted. As the Colony is capable of producing choice quality fruit the outlook for this industry is encouraging.

Cotton.

Vigorous efforts to stimulate the production of cotton were rendered abortive by unseasonable weather conditions. Drought conditions immediately prior to cropping were so severe that the crops died back and bolls were shed, a most unusual happening in Fiji as abnormally dry seasons in the past have been satisfactory for cotton.

Sea Island cotton was planted in the northern districts of Viti Levu and a locally bred Backcross in the western districts.

The Sea Island crop averaged a production of 236 lb. of seed cotton per acre, the total yield being 11,400 lb. lint, corresponding figures for the Backcross type being 435 lb. of seed cotton and 13,986 lb. of lint.

Lint quality was well maintained for both varieties although the Backcross is still showing some irregularities.

Breeding and selection work and spacing trials were continued at the Singatoka Experiment Station, special attention being given to the maintenance of purity and grade of the Sea Island and the improvement and stabilization of the lint characters of the Backcross together with an increase in the yielding capacity.

Subsidiary Crops for Export.

New Zealand is at present the only market for subsidiary crops with the exception of whole coconuts, Mauritius bean (Stizolobium atterimum), tomatoes and tobacco which find markets elsewhere. The Dominion demand is small and it is unlikely that the export trade in the products referred to below will be capable of considerable expansion unless additional markets can be found.

Kumalas (*Sweet Potatoes*).—Kumalas for export are grown principally by Chinese market gardeners situated close to Suva, but Fijians further afield are becoming interested in this crop. Close examination of exports are necessary as kumalas are attacked by a weevil, the presence of which in consignments is followed by condemnation by the Plant Health Authorities in New Zealand. A total of 8,647 sacks was disposed of in the New Zealand market in 1936. Profitable export trading is restricted to the months of August-December, when the market is bare of home-grown kumalas. Large quantities are produced by Fijians and others for local consumption.

Pawpaws, granadillas and taro.—These are comparatively new items in the list of minor products exported. Pawpaws and granadillas of the finest quality are produced without difficulty in the Colony and the local consumption, especially of the former, assumes considerable proportions. The development of a profitable export trade in these products is attended with difficulty as the demand is as yet small, and in the case of the former, heavy losses in the material occur during transport to the market. Granadillas suffer from the attacks of fruit flies and as isolation in fly-proof chambers after cutting is impracticable owing to the rapid deterioration of the fruit, all granadillas intended for export are required to be bagged on the vines for at least two weeks prior to export. Taro (Colocasia antiquorum) is one of the staple foods of the Fijians, practically every householder cultivating a small area for use of himself and his family. It is only during the year under review that small shipments were made to New Zealand and, while remunerative prices were received for small consignments, experience showed that values receded considerably in an over-supplied market. A stronger demand should become apparent when the vegetable has become better known.

Cucumbers, Melons and Pumpkins.—These products are produced in excellent quality and find profitable markets in New Zealand during the seasons. Chinese market gardeners situated near Suva are the principal producers.

Tomatoes.—A comparatively large trade was formerly done with Australia in tomatoes but declining prices in recent years have reduced the exports considerably—over 11,000 boxes of tomatoes were exported in 1931.

Coconuts.—Small exports to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada were made during the year, but the margin of profit is too small to prove attractive.

Mauritius Beans.—This legume is largely used as a cover crop in the sugar industry and, formerly, substantial exports of seed were made to Queensland for the same purpose. The use of other leguminous plants and a diversion of the trade from Fiji to New Guinea has curtailed export in recent years. All shipments are subjected to germination tests prior to export, a 60 per cent. germination being required to comply with the Fruit Export Ordinance. Exports during the year amounted to 596 cwt.

Products consumed locally.

Maize.—Formerly the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, purchased large quantities of maize under contracts with Indian growers but, with the development of tenant farming in the sugar industry, the demand for maize diminished considerably and growers now experience difficulty in disposing of their crops during the season. There is still, however, a considerable demand for maize, but the lack of organization, inevitable under existing conditions under which a large number of Indian and Fijian small producers market their crops independently, has tended to restrict demands owing to the uncertainty of supplies and the wide fluctuations in price during portions of the year. The steps taken by the Government to provide an organization for storage and sale of this and other products at stable prices is referred to in the section of this report dealing with marketing.

An uncertain market for maize exists in New Zealand, but it will be necessary to perfect an organization for drying and holding the grain free from insect attacks before any advantage can be taken of the spasmodic demands of the Dominion.

The use of maize flour in the place of sharps is also receiving attention.

Potatoes.—Excellent quality potatoes are produced in a number of areas, especially on the Singatoka River, but the necessity for procuring fresh seed from abroad annually is an item of considerable expense which tends to limit production. That there is room for considerable expansion of production is evidenced by the fact that 1,480 tons of potatoes valued at £9,926 were imported during the year.

Kava (*Piper Methysticum*).—The ground root of this plant mixed with water is used as a beverage throughout the South Seas and large quantities are produced for consumption within the Colony. During recent years Indians and Chinese have planted large areas but attacks of a disease have caused severe losses in the areas near to Suva. Formerly, the use of this beverage was restricted to native chiefs but it is now consumed by practically all the Fijians and a large number of Indians.

Indian foodstuffs.—Rice, beans, peas, lentils, maize, bringall, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, tumeric, ground nuts, mango, gauva, melons, potatoes, eschalots, as well as many other foodstuffs of lesser importance, are all grown in Fiji by the Indians. Large quantities are, however, imported more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage the Indians to grow and prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian population is tending to include more and more of the Fijians' foodstuffs in their diet; similarly the Fijian is developing a taste for Indian curry foods and rice.

European vegetables, e.g., cabbage, peas, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins, marrow, will, with care, grow well in all parts of the Colony. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Marketing.

The cultivators of sugar-cane have a permanent market for their crops at a fixed price provided that their areas are approved by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited as suitable for cane cultivation and for economical transportation to a mill. Copra has not such a stable value as sugar-cane but, provided that quality is satisfactory, the producer is able to dispose of his production within his district. Merchants conduct branch stores throughout the Group at which the purchase of copra forms a regular part of the business and there are a number of small Chinese businesses throughout the copra districts which purchase or exchange for goods the production of the plantations in the form of dried copra, green copra or whole coconuts. The cultivation of bananas is restricted to certain districts in which an organization, under Government supervision, arranges for the purchase of the fruit at prescribed centres. Cotton is purchased by the Government at fixed prices at centres near the ginneries.

Hitherto, there has been no organization for the marketing of minor products for which there is a demand locally and abroad with the result that the production of many crops suitable for small holders has been neglected.

The merchant houses and small storekeepers who provide the means of disposal for copra are not interested to any extent in products such as native vegetables, maize, Mauritius beans, tobacco, kumalas, and padi with the consequence that those Fijians and Indians who are remote from centres of European settlement experience considerable difficulty and incur heavy expenditure in disposal of such products. The disposal of small quantities of produce by a large number of individuals acting independently of each other undoubtedly increases the costs of marketing with the consequence that profits are low, production is restricted and the local demand is reduced by the high prices rendered necessary by inordinately high costs of disposal. Exports are affected also in that the products cannot be sold in competition with those of other tropical countries.

Such a form of marketing has the added disadvantage of irregularity of supply which tends further to reduce local consumption.

The provision of an organization for the marketing of small quantities of produce from widely scattered areas is a matter of some difficulty, but Government has under consideration the creation of some such organization.

There are many minor products which can be produced in abundance in the Colony and for which a considerable local sale should be possible provided that prices are reasonable and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide some form of organization which will, in time, provide the means of bridging the gap between the producer and the consumer.

Live Stock.

Although live stock and products derived therefrom are not prominent in the lists of exports of the Colony, domestic animals play an important part in the life of the community. The

Colony is essentially agricultural and, since the introduction of the tenant farmer system in cane cultivation, practically all cultivation is done by means of oxen or horse traction. In addition a large proportion of the diet of the Indian population is derived from cows and consumed as milk or ghee. Among these people also there is a considerable interchange of goods by barter. The medium is usually cattle or goats.

On coconut plantations, cattle are kept to provide food for Fijian labour and to keep down undergrowth.

The country is self-supporting in beef and goat meat and almost so as regards pork supplies. Most of the mutton consumed is imported, since Fiji has not as yet been found suitable for the raising of sheep. Sheep imported for slaughter in 1936 numbered 1,556, whilst 175 pigs were imported for this purpose.

No census of stock was taken during 1936 so that it is only possible to repeat the figures published for 1935, i.e., horses approximately 14,000, cattle 70,000, and goats 20,000.

Dairying.

The dairy industry has prospered since its inception about 1919. Each year until 1935 an increased output of butter was recorded. In 1936 there was a slight fall due to slightly unfavourable seasonal conditions.

The following figures indicate the production of the two factories now operating, with comparisons for five years:—

Year.	*Butter manufactured.* *lb.*	*Sold locally.* *lb.*	*Exported.* *lb.*	*Converted into Ghee.* *lb.*
1932	543,815	272,663	271,152	—
1933	544,375	388,631	205,744	17,920
1934	560,649	268,383	146,384	145,882
1935	608,201	347,513	27,736	232,952
1936	533,280	362,791	—	190,489

It will be seen that local sales of butter remain fairly constant. Exports have fallen to nil whilst the conversion of butter into ghee has increased from nil to the figure shown. Before 1934 large quantities of ghee or ghee substitutes were imported and much money left the Colony for this purpose. In 1936 it became apparent that the practice of converting surplus butter into ghee for local consumption was sound. It will not be possible, however, to extend the dairying industry much further and still to find a profitable local market for its products.

In addition to the products of the factories much ghee and some butter is produced domestically. Most of this is disposed of among peasant farmers by small traders, but there are no means of recording the quantities.

The milk supply of Suva and other areas with concentrated populations is abundant and good. It is retailed at from 2d. to 3d. per pint. A compulsory tuberculin test is applied to all registered dairies in the Suva district and a few registered dairy herds outside this area are voluntarily subjected to the test.

Pasteurized milk in bottles is supplied by one Company from non-tuberculin tested cattle. The milk supply of most Government schools is from tubercular-free cows. The dairy herds of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited are now almost free of this disease. Indeed no evidence has been produced to show that the milk supply of Suva is in any way inferior to that existing in non-tropical lands.

Poultry.

Fiji is almost, though not quite, self-supporting in egg supply. The extension of road communication is already making the marketing of country produce easier and the egg shortage in the off season of 1936 was not so acute as in former years.

The Department of Agriculture imported a small flock of the Australorp breed during 1936 as a nucleus of a flock with which it is hoped materially to improve local strains. The price of eggs varies from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 3d. per dozen wholesale. Table fowls vary from 3s. 6d. to 5s., and ducks from 5s. to 6s. per bird.

Agricultural instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This phase of agricultural education is controlled by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native and Indian Departments and a representative of the Methodist Mission. For the purpose of this description it may be divided into two main spheres, namely primary instruction and adult instruction.

PRIMARY INSTRUCTION.

The work under this heading may be briefly described as the operation of the agricultural bias which it is intended to give to certain portions of the curriculum of existing schools. This training is more or less confined to nature study lessons and work in school gardens. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools, but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and the Teachers' Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and at the Government Experimental Stations further still in the training of students. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as Native Field Instructors of the Agricultural Department for work mainly amongst the adult population.

Adult Instruction.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian agricultural community is far ahead of the Fijian in modern agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugar-cane and since the adoption of the tenant farmer system by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, the individual comes under the direct supervision of the trained officers of that Company. In these circumstances Government's restricted financial resources have been directed towards the progress of the more backward Fijian. Efforts are in operation to settle Fijians on the land in small communal settlements in selected areas where they can be supervised and assisted with the marketing of their produce. While considerable progress has been made in this direction, the difficulties are great, owing to the roving disposition of the Fijian, his ease of livelihood, and the smallness of the population.

Mining.

Active prospecting operations were continued during the first half of the year, but fell away with the withdrawal in the second half-year of several Australian companies which had failed to locate payable deposits of ore. Forty-six prospecting licences, aggregating 87,564 acres, were issued during the year, 13 being in the Tavua mining area, 11 in the Yanawai mining area and 22 elsewhere in the Colony. Seventy-two licences lapsed or were surrendered during the year. A total of 25,226 feet of diamond drilling in the Tavua and Yanawai mining areas were performed during the year. A calcareous deposit at Tailevu was examined by the Inspector of Mines in December and reported by him to be a white marble of possible commercial value. It was proposed, as a result of this report, to obtain bulk samples for testing.

The Emperor mine at Tavua treated 25,179 tons of ore during the year for a return of 12,931 oz. of fine gold and 911 oz. of silver. An additional plant capable of treating 10,000 tons of ore per month is being installed and is expected to commence operations about September, 1937. Upwards of 80 new buildings were erected on the mining lease during the year, including residences and barracks for mine officers and employees and a large social hall. The average number of persons employed on the mine during the year was 563.

Loloma (Fiji) Gold Mines, N.L., continued a vigorous ore development policy and commenced the erection of a milling plant capable of treating 500 tons of ore per week. It is anticipated that production will commence about July, 1937. The Public Works Department constructed a metalled road, at the expense of the company, giving access to the Tavua-Emperor Mine road. A new general office and many residences and barracks were erected. The average number of men employed on the mine during the year was 300.

Mount Kasi Mines, Limited, at Yanawai, treated 14,137 tons of ore during the year for a return of 4,024 oz. of fine gold and 273 oz. of silver. Additions were made to the mill buildings and milling plant and several new residences and other buildings were erected. The average number of men employed during the year was 195.

The estimated number of persons of all races employed in mining and prospecting at the end of 1936 was 2,515.

The following statement shows the amounts of fine gold produced in the Yanawai and Tavua Mining Areas since the commencement of mining operations:—

Year.	*Yanawai.*	*Tavua.*	*Total.*
	oz.	*oz.*	*oz.*
1932	311·1	—	311·1
1933	1,844·2	—	1,844·2
1934	796·7	134·7	931·4
1935	1,786·9	4,940·8	6,727·7
1936	4,024·2	12,930·9	16,955·2
Totals ...	8,763·1	18,006·4	26,769·6

VII.—COMMERCE.

Owing to the continued development of the mining industry, a heavy sugar crop, and increased values for copra, trade returns for 1936 showed a considerable advance over the 1935 figures.

The total trade of the Colony for 1936 showed an increase of 18·18 per cent. over 1935 figures, the increases for imports and exports being 19·45 per cent. and 17·31 per cent. respectively. Imports in 1936 valued at £1,501,854 have only been exceeded on two previous occasions, namely in 1920 and in 1921 when the values were £1,673,121 and £1,509,732 respectively. Exports valued at £2,135,427 are the highest recorded since 1928.

Values of Imports, Exports, total trade and visible trade balance for each of the past five years were:—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
1932 ...	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310	841,618
1933 ...	1,069,266	1,725,529	2,794,795	656,263
1934 ...	995,204	1,456,455	2,451,659	461,251
1935 ...	1,257,287	1,820,396	3,077,683	563,109
1936 ...	1,501,854	2,135,427	3,637,281	633,573

In 1936 the total trade of the Colony was divided between the different countries as follows:—

Country.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total trade.*	*Percentage of total trade.*
United Kingdom	526,690	842,874	1,369,564	37·65
Australia	420,989	241,564	662,553	18·22
Canada	81,777	546,811	628,588	17·28
India	91,997	420	92,417	2·54
New Zealand	59,633	123,600	183,233	5·04
Dutch East Indies	34,420	9,193	43,613	1·20
Japan	50,109	5,436	55,545	1·53
United States	91,065	89,279	180,344	4·96
Other British Possessions...	71,113	17,455	88,568	2·43
Other Foreign Countries ...	44,885	254,015	298,900	8·21
	1,472,678	2,130,647	3,603,325	99·06
Ships' Stores	—	4,780	4,780	·14
Parcels Post	29,176	—	29,176	·80
Totals ... £	1,501,854	2,135,427	3,637,281	100·00

The following table shows how the trade was distributed during the past two years:—

Country.	*Percentage of imports.*		*Percentage of exports.*		*Percentage of total trade.*	
	1935.	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
United Kingdom...	39·45	35·07	49·27	39·47	45·26	37·65
Other British Possessions.	42·33	48·31	39·06	43·55	40·39	45·51
Foreign Countries	16·26	14·68	10·71	16·76	12·98	15·90
Parcels Post ...	1·96	1·94	—	—	·80	·80
Ships' Stores ...	—	—	·96	·22	·57	·14
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Imports.

The value of imports from the principal countries during the last five years was as follows:—

Country.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	250,748	366,151	362,763	495,992	526,590
Australia	317,046	379,886	261,108	307,387	420,989
Canada	25,675	38,175	45,309	56,823	81,777
India	33,944	39,242	63,588	86,755	91,997
New Zealand	100,255	88,174	34,343	45,505	59,633
Japan	29,814	39,269	29,764	39,625	50,109
Dutch East Indies ...	22,633	18,794	24,643	25,755	34,420
United States... ...	25,937	42,431	86,285	95,150	91,065

The proportion of the total import trade done with these countries during the same period was as follows:—

Country.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	29·25	34·24	36·45	39·45	35·07
Australia	36·98	35·53	26·24	24·45	28·03
Canada	3·00	3·57	4·55	4·52	5·45
India	3·96	3·67	6·39	6·90	6·13
New Zealand	11·69	8·25	3·45	3·62	3·97
Japan	3·48	3·67	2·99	3·15	3·34
Dutch East Indies ...	2·64	1·76	2·48	2·05	2·29
United States... ...	3·03	3·97	8·67	7·58	6·06

The principal articles imported from the above-mentioned countries during the last two years are as follows:—

FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

Article.	*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Boots and shoes ...	—	1,553	—	1,937
Cement and lime ...	69,546 cwt.	7,126	85,435 cwt.	9,278
Cinematograph films	733,633 ft.	4,320	366,189 ft.	1,830
Drapery	—	124,362	—	101,229
Drugs	—	6,290	—	8,509
Hardware	—	56,108	—	34,876
Iron, black, and steel, mild.	10,707 cwt.	5,925	8,225 cwt.	4,334
Iron, galvanized ...	19,909 cwt.	15,691	23,720 cwt.	27,244
Machinery	—	49,654	—	92,060
Manures	3,165 tons	20,911	3,212 tons	21,246
Matches, wood ...	34,600 gross	6,266	43,500 gross	7,623
Motor vehicles ...	90	10,787	89	12,075
Oils	59,320 gal.	5,792	67,493 gal.	6,985
Paints	167 tons	8,276	146 tons	8,085
Salt	16,886 cwt.	2,662	13,616 cwt.	2,002
Spirits	17,043 gal.	18,032	18,504 gal.	19,505
Stationery	—	6,032	—	5,381
Tobacco	18,281 lb.	7,562	25,638 lb.	11,091
Toys and fancy goods	—	6,241	—	5,910
Other articles ...	—	132,412	—	145,490
TOTAL ...	£	495,992	£	526,690

FROM AUSTRALIA.

Article.	*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Bags and sacks ...	125 doz.	27	350 doz.	92
Beer	53,473 gal.	8,436	84,146 gal.	13,913
Biscuits, fancy ...	132,013 lb.	5,155	155,161 lb.	6,260
Confectionery ...	74,081 lb.	3,393	84,367 lb.	4,120
Coal	31,545 tons	19,699	24,413 tons	15,476
Cordage and rope ...	719 cwt.	1,854	1,156 cwt.	3,049
Drapery	—	1,792	—	1,739
Drugs	—	4,123	—	5,463
Flour, sharps and pollard.	17,422,685 lb.	60,146	20,773,078 lb.	89,782
Fruits and vegetables, fresh.	20,185 cwt.	9,091	20,765 cwt.	9,505
Grease	2,577 cwt.	1,410	3,041 cwt.	1,651
Hardware	—	19,452	—	19,419
Machinery	—	34,998	—	57,624
Meats	240,374 lb.	4,621	315,609 lb.	9,431
Oils	1,160 gal.	622	757 gal.	579
Paints	76 tons	4,244	96 tons	5,454
Photographs and films.	140,504 ft.	822	105,715 ft.	529
Rice	1,482 cwt.	799	1,400 cwt.	862
Spirits	1,256 gal.	460	1,839 gal.	673
Tobacco, cigarettes, and cigars.	84,031 lb.	24,503	109,994 lb.	32,160
Other articles ...	—	101,740	—	143,208
TOTAL ...	£	307,387	£	420,989

FROM CANADA.

Fish	578,279 lb.	11,617	793,539 lb.	13,731
Motor vehicles ...	116	14,399	145	19,972
Timber	3,065,188 ft.	14,947	5,103,699 ft.	26,266
Tyres and tubes ...	—	5,341	—	7,753
Other articles ...	—	10,519	—	14,055
TOTAL ...	£	56,823	£	81,777

FROM INDIA.

Bags and sacks ...	179,453 doz.	49,995	175,867 doz.	46,346
Dhall	12,078 cwt.	7,126	16,191 cwt.	9,205
Drapery	—	5,604	—	5,043
Ghee and Ghee substitutes.	13,367 lb.	216	58,034 lb.	1,379
Oil, mustard ...	57,243 gal.	8,800	46,021 gal.	6,810
Other articles ...	—	15,014	—	23,214
TOTAL ...	£	86,755		£91,997

FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Article.	*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Bacon and hams ...	59,519 lb.	3,032	73,292 lb.	3,636
Drapery	—	1,709	—	1,573
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	16,759 cwt.	6,664	22,272 cwt.	7,699
Grease and tallow ...	1,581 cwt.	2,228	2,230 cwt.	2,623
Manure	1,170 cwt.	404	1,403 cwt.	465
Meat...	386,738 lb.	9,089	500,551 lb.	12,864
Photographs and films.	—	—	—	—
Soap, plain	516,121 lb.	4,588	519,732 lb.	4,945
Sugar	363,446 lb.	2,018	443,595 lb.	2,530
Other articles ...	—	15,773	—	23,298
TOTAL ...	£	45,505	£	59,633

FROM JAPAN.

Drapery	—	32,443	—	38,954
Other articles ...	—	7,182	—	11,155
TOTAL ...	£	39,625	£	50,109

FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES.

Oil, crude	956,392 gal.	4,887	1,428,687 gal.	9,564
Kerosene	166,536 gal.	5,196	132,400 gal.	3,929
Motor fuel	517,976 gal.	15,645	654,088 gal.	20,916
Other articles ...	—	27	—	11
TOTAL ...	£	25,755	£	34,420

FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Cinematograph films	2,825,391 ft.	17,157	2,456,777 ft.	11,171
Fruit and vegetables, fresh.	3,916 cwt.	2,370	3,919 cwt.	2,803
Hardware	—	5,136	—	5,418
Oil, kerosene ...	235,716 gal.	8,247	172,122 gal.	6,498
Motor fuel	689,927 gal.	11,644	696,916 gal.	12,013
Other fuel	557,831 gal.	9,509	345,501 gal.	8,702
Machinery, agricultural.	—	6,003	—	5,904
Other articles ...	—	29,967	—	33,292
Motor vehicles ...	29	5,117	30	5,264
TOTAL ...	£	95,150	£	91,065

With the exception of drapery, all importations of principal items showed increases, the most marked being beer, flour, sharps and rice in goods imported for human consumption. Iron, steel, machinery and timber gave the larger increases in manufactured articles.

Drapery, machinery and other manufactured articles were the principal items imported from the United Kingdom. Australia and New Zealand supplied the bulk of the foodstuffs.

Imports from within the Empire were 1·6 per cent. more than in 1935.

Exports.

The total value of exports in 1936 amounted to £2,135,427 as compared with £1,820,396 for the previous year—an increase of £315,031.

The figures for 1935 and 1936 are as follows:—

	1935.	*1936.*	*Increase over 1935.*
	£	£	£
Exports, the produce of the Colony.	1,735,005	2,023,496	288,491
Re-exports	85,391	111,931	26,540
	£1,820,396	£2,135,427	£315,031

Sugar.—The quantity of sugar exported in 1936 was 140,864 tons and constitutes a record. As compared with 1935, the quantity exported was 5,231 tons in excess and in value £17,573.

The following table shows the countries to which sugar was exported during the year 1936.

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
United Kingdom	82,636	779,385
Canada	57,123	540,978
New Zealand	1,103	11,320
Other countries	2	18
	140,864	£1,331,701

Copra.—The quantity of copra exported in 1936 was 34,582 tons valued at £406,393, this being 7,286 tons in excess of 1935 and in value, £176,130 in excess.

The following table shows the ports to which copra was exported during 1936:—

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
United Kingdom	760	9,020
Australia	5,073	63,332
Europe	15,891	180,084
France	1,012	12,586
Mexico	2,700	33,016
United States	7,322	88,129
Netherlands	733	8,136
Germany	650	7,508
Spain	441	4,582
	34,582	£406,393

Bananas.—The total exports for 1936 were equivalent to 320,143 bunches valued at £84,548 as compared with 303,127 bunches valued at £66,863 in 1935.

The following table shows the quantity, value and the countries to which bananas were exported in 1935 and 1936:—

	1935.		*1936.*	
	Quantity. Bunches.	*Value.*	*Quantity. Bunches.*	*Value.*
		£		£
Australia	16,411	3,732	2,998	792
Canada	15,767	3,988	18,924	4,725
New Zealand...	270,949	59,143	298,221	79,031
Total No. of bunches ...	303,127	£66,863	320,143	£84,548

Gold Bullion.—The quantity of gold bullion exported in 1936 amounted to 17,107 oz. valued at £131,684 as compared with 6,933 oz. valued at £54,019 in 1935, an increase in quantity of 10,174 oz. and in value £77,665. It is estimated that the production in 1937 will be far in excess of 1936 and greater in 1938. All gold bullion was exported to Australia.

Molasses.—The quantity exported in 1936 was 22,576 tons valued at £22,576, this being 6,031 tons and in value £6,031 more than 1935. Of the quantity exported Australia took 18,181 tons and New Zealand 4,395 tons.

Trocas Shell.—The quantity and value of trocas shell exported in 1936 was 185 tons valued at £14,305 this being 113 tons less in quantity and in value, £5,921 less than 1935.

Exports in 1936 were divided among the following countries:—

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
United Kingdom...	23	1,877
Australia	7	601
Europe	28	2,124
France	52	3,997
Japan	69	5,275
Netherlands	6	431
	185	£14,305

Other domestic products exported in 1936 were valued at £32,289 this being £672 less than in 1935.

Expressed in percentages of the total value of exports the following table shows the relative proportions of each of the major exports, and of the minor exports as a group, in the year 1936.

Article.	*Percentage in value of total exports.*
Sugar	62·36
Copra	19·03
Gold Bullion	6·17
Bananas	3·96
Molasses	1·06
Trocas Shell	·67
Minor Exports	1·51
Re-exports	5·24
	100·00

The Exports of the principal products and minor products of the Colony for the past five years are shown in the following statements.

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS.

Article.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	... tons	131,302	1,289,239	113,836	1,180,782	103,863	1,069,049	135,633	1,314,128	140,864	1,331,701
Copra ...	... tons	15,076	170,240	22,597	195,788	23,520	127,941	27,296	230,263	34,582	406,393
Molasses ...	... tons	9,448	9,448	12,937	12,937	16,828	16,828	16,545	16,545	22,576	22,576
Bananas ...	bunches	346,968	67,237	326,422	69,243	324,494	67,845	303,127	66,863	320,143	84,548
Biscuits ...	... lb.	133,266	3,135	84,654	1,919	53,749	1,088	71,394	1,438	108,742	2,363
Butter ...	... cwt.	2,421	11,299	1,837	7,564	1,307	4,016	244	970	—	—
Cotton ...	... lb.	101,997	5,100	34,870	2,300	2,513	84	3,860	257	30,669	1,604
Vegetables	... cwt.	5,892	1,875	3,645	1,228	1,961	940	5,881	2,237	9,045	3,872
Pines, canned	... lb.	621,036	8,095	380,711	5,582	282,686	3,808	114,794	1,718	43,071	522
Pines, fresh	... cases	1,776	668	2,684	1,007	2,171	816	986	371	1,206	455
Trocas shell	... tons	266	12,125	365	19,945	319	20,733	298	20,226	185	14,305
Gold Bullion	... oz.	305	2,053	2,079	13,500	1,033	7,590	6,933	54,019	17,107	131,684

MINOR PRODUCTS.

Article.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£		£		£		£		£
Beans, Mauritius...	cwt.	2,590	3,237	1,201	1,855	1,595	2,660	961	1,683	596	745
Bêche-de-mer ...	cwt.	2,074	8,801	255	1,348	272	1,408	434	2,381	48	258
Coconuts	No.	330,930	994	251,330	754	300,040	807	16,400	490	88,950	267
Fruits, fresh, other than bananas or pines.		—	1,116	—	3,663	—	2,010	—	5,248	—	2,439
Gum	cwt.	3,074	3,013	2,618	3,220	3,936	4,364	3,657	4,196	4,373	4,918
Oil, coconut ...	tons	18	410	50	1,129	65	1,552	81	1,690	113	2,942
Shell, pearl ...	lb.	21,504	193	12,824	128	7,817	80	8,035	81	1,008	11
,, turtle ...	lb.	1,400	879	1,687	1,041	2,788	1,870	1,670	1,342	1,033	667
Soap, plain ...	cwt.	3,141	4,332	3,084	4,338	2,632	3,244	3,311	4,255	4,574	6,318
Hides	No.	3,473	1,724	3,587	1,381	4,546	1,917	4,506	2,867	4,526	3,047

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour of Fijians.

There has been no variation during the year in the conditions regarding employment of labourers under contract of service. The local market price of copra varied between £9 and £15 during the year; this improved price has meant that labourers for plantations are more in demand.

In 1936, a large number of Fijians were employed in the construction of the new Suga-Singatoka Road. The Tavua gold mines and Mount Kasi gold mine also gave employment to many natives.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands, he is capable of supporting himself and family from the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed and employment is a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew.

Labour and Wages of Indians.

Wage conditions have not changed during the past year and the various standards are as follows:—

> Unskilled labour, Suva; 2s. 6d. per day—country districts varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. In the cane areas the labour is seasonal as far as mill workers and cane cutters are concerned. Mill labourers are paid on an average of 1s. 8d. per day with a bonus of 7d. per day during the crushing season. These workers enjoy certain privileges in the purchase of provisions which are not available to outside labour. Cane cutters receive bonuses from growers that in many instances raise their earnings to as much as from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

Casual labour is in firm demand during the crushing season and owing to the fact that the source of supply is from the small peasant farmers—who are growing more and more independent of outside income—the supply is never in excess of requirements and frequently the opposite.

Public Works Department, Labour.

The total average number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was 1,895. Of these, 1,037 were employed in the Suva District and 858 in various country districts.

Wages for unskilled labour ranged from 1s. 6d. per day to 5s. per day, the higher rate being paid in Suva District.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, rates ranging from 5s. per day for juniors to 25s. per day, according to the efficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boat builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths and fitters, while occasionally native Fijians and Indians qualify for these positions. This class of labour is gradually displacing the skilled European mechanic in the various trades enumerated above and the time is approaching when Europeans will only be employed as foremen and in the higher grades.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen:—

> Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day, depending on the degree of skill.
>
> Boatbuilders 8s. to 23s. 4d. a day. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boat sheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.
>
> Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 25s. a day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 10s. rising to £2 10s. a week.

Painters (usually Indians) 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 10s. to 18s. a day. The average is £4 10s. a week.

Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 per month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. a month.

The wages paid by the Public Works Department and the conditions under which the labourers work are practically identical with those obtaining outside the Department. The hours of work are eight a day, or forty-eight a week, and these hours are only departed from by the planters and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose employees work nine hours a day or 54 hours a week.

There is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories and each has a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £20 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £7 to £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £4 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general; or cook and house-boy; or cook, house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl. Cooks earn £5 to £7 a month and food, others £2 to £4 a month and food. Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are a little cheaper but less efficient. White servants are very rarely employed.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children, or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country, on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

In Suva, a single man could live, but with little margin for emergencies, on £200 a year. In country districts, if quarters are provided, he could live on slightly less.

European artisans tend to be employed only on fairly responsible work and it is unlikely that a married man could manage on less than £250 to £300 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use.

Butter...	1s. 6d. per lb.
Bread ...	3d. per lb.
Milk ...	4d. per quart.
Cheese...	1s. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 3d. per lb.
Pork ...	1s. 3d. per lb.
Rice ...	3d. per lb.
Coffee ...	1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.
Tea ...	2s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. per lb.
Sugar, white ...	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown...	2d. per lb.
Salt ...	1½d. per lb.
Eggs ...	2s. to 3s. 6d. per dozen.
Bacon ...	1s. 6d. per lb.
Preserved meats	1s. per lb.
Onions	2d. per lb.
Flour ...	2½d. per lb.
Potatoes	13s. 6d. per cwt.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows:—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary ...	Free.	£2 2s. a year.
Secondary	£6 a year.	£7 10s. a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools, with reductions if two or more children of the same family are boarders.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and social clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s., and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis and golf clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £4 4s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows:—

New Zealand	£12 to £22 10s.
Australia ...	£25 to £50.
England ...	£87 10s. to £159 10s.

It is difficult to give an accurate indication of the actual cost of living of Fijian and Indian labourers, of whom only a small number are dependent on their wages. In very many cases these labourers live in their own houses and cultivate small plots of land which enable them to grow a portion of their food supplies. It is also the common practice for Indian labourers to grow and husk their own rice. In these ways they materially reduce their actual living costs. All Fijian labourers are landowners and are under no economic necessity to work for wages. All Fijians and Indians receive free medical treatment at all Government hospitals. Agricultural and other labourers employed under contract of service are provided with food, lodging, and medical care. In general, the wages paid to Fijians and Indians, who live largely upon locally produced foodstuffs, are more than sufficient to meet their needs.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

The history of native education is closely interwoven with that of the various Mission Societies represented in Fiji. The Methodist Mission arrived in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870 and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889. The early missionaries reduced the language to writing, published a Fijian-English Dictionary and printed a translation of the New Testament. They established schools throughout the Colony and the high percentage of literacy is mainly due to their efforts.

The Education Ordinance of 1916 established a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926, an Education Commission was appointed to inquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No. 1 of 1929 substituted. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

Grants to registered schools are based mainly on the average attendance of children of school age (6-14) for the three months preceding 1st July in the prevous year and partly on the grade of the teachers employed. Grants vary from £3 per head in a school with an average attendance of 20 pupils, to £1 18s. 8d. in a school with an average attendance of 203.

The Board has power to direct that a particular school shall be registered for the education of children of a particular race, and schools have accordingly been registered for Europeans, Fijians, Indians, Chinese and Melanesians, while a number of schools, usually in the towns, enrol children of all races.

European Education.

There are 14 schools for Europeans or part-Europeans; four are Government schools, five are controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, three by the Roman Catholic Mission and two by local committees.

All of these are primary schools and four (two Government and two Roman Catholic) have secondary departments. The Government schools prepare pupils for the New Zealand Education Department Examinations or the University Entrance Examination. The two Roman Catholic Mission schools prepare pupils for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Manual instruction for boys, and cooking for girls, are included in the curriculum. A commercial course is given in the two schools in Suva for girls—the Girls' Grammar School and St. Joseph's Convent.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government Correspondence Classes, which are organized to enable a pupil taking the course to pass into an appropriate class in the Grammar Schools. Fifty pupils were enrolled during the year. The fees are £2 a year and books and stationery are supplied at cost price.

Under a Scheme of Co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji, the three Government schools are staffed by New Zealand teachers, who serve as a rule from two to six years in Fiji. The teachers in the Colonial Sugar Refining Company schools are usually recruited in New Zealand. The syllabus of instruction in these schools is very similar to that prescribed in New Zealand. A number of children leave Fiji every year to attend schools, the greater number go to New Zealand, some to Australia and a few to England.

Half of the net cost of three of the Government schools for Europeans is met from a special education rate levied in the towns of Suva and Levuka, in which the schools are situated. Children of the owners or occupiers of houses on which education rate is paid are exempt from tuition fees in the Primary classes and pay £6 a year in the secondary classes. Others pay £2 2s. 0d. in the primary and £7 10s. 0d. a year in the secondary classes. All fees are reduced by one-third when two or more members of a family attend.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for boys and the other for girls. The fee is £50 a year with liberal reductions for two or more members of a family. Hostels are also maintained by the Methodist Mission in Suva and by the Roman Catholic Mission in Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. There were 491 girls and 535 boys on the roll of the 14 schools. The gross cost to Government of all European schools was £10,929 4s. 8d.

Some European children are also enrolled in schools for children of all races. The total number of European children in all schools is 1,435.

Fijian Education.

There are 298 schools including seven Government schools for Fijians. Practically every Fijian child has access to a school of some kind although many of them are not very efficient. Grants-in-aid were paid to 123 primary schools, and the number will increase as more certificated teachers are trained. In these grant-aided schools Fijian is the medium of instruction in Classes 1 to 4. In addition to the usual school subjects English may be taught for a limited time per day. The seven Government schools are residential. In six of them, known as Provincial Schools, the syllabus is that of the assisted primary schools, except that more attention is paid to English, which becomes the medium of instruction in the higher classes. Each school maintains a farm and at least nine hours a week are devoted to practical agriculture.

The Fijians contribute £4,350 a year towards the maintenance of these schools. Each Province selects pupils in proportion to its annual contributions and in many Provinces the competition is so keen that it has been possible to select the brighter pupils from the local schools. Pupils usually enrol at about the age of 12 and remain at school to the end of the year in which they attain the age of 18.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians is maintained by the Government, a fee of £6 a year being charged. Six exhibitions, tenable for three years, are awarded annually on the results of a competitive examination. Other pupils are required to pass an entrance examination. The roll in 1936 was 89. The course is similar to that in Provincial Schools, but owing to the more rigorous selection of pupils the standard is higher. Pupils of this school are prepared for admission to the Government service, the Teachers' Training Schools and the Central Medical School.

The total number of Fijians in all schools that forwarded returns was 15,569 of whom 8,972 were boys and 6,597 girls.

The gross cost to Government of Fijian education, excluding the Central Medical School, was £24,085 13s. 6d.

Indian Education.

In 1936 there were 77 schools for Indians including seven Government schools. Of these 59 were assisted by grants-in-aid. In these schools Hindustani is the medium of instruction in Classes I to IV. In addition to the usual school subjects English is taught. In many of the schools an attempt is made to teach a third language, usually Tamil. A number of the assisted schools are controlled by local committees. Many find it difficult to secure the necessary funds to supplement the grant made by Government, but generally conditions improve yearly. Indian boys may proceed to the Secondary Department of the Natambua Indian School where they may be prepared for the University Entrance Examination. The standard of all schools is improving as more trained teachers become available.

There were 5,631 Indian pupils, 4,164 boys and 1,467 girls, in all schools in 1936. The gross amount spent on Indian education was £13,040 14s. 11d.

Training of Teachers.

There are four training institutions (one Government and three Mission) for male teachers. Both Indians and Fijians are enrolled in two of these and in the others Fijians only. The course is for two years and students are selected by a competitive examination. Government assistance was given towards the training of 58 students.

There are no special training schools for women. In 1936 special grants were paid to two Methodist Mission girls' schools to enable them to train women teachers, of whom there were 14. In addition to these a number of girls were employed as probationers in girls' schools.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate a teacher must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university or its equivalent. For the lowest or fifth class the standard is approximately that of a normal English child of 14.

Technical Schools.

The Ndavuilevu Technical School, controlled by the Methodist Mission, gives technical training, mainly carpentry, to Fijian boys. A similar school is maintained by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Ovalau.

Navuso Agricultural School.

This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides a course in farming and dairying for 87 young Fijian men. A Government grant of £400 was paid in 1936.

Other Schools.

Separate departmental schools are controlled by the Medical, Agricultural, and Police Departments to train their native assistants.

Finance.

The gross amount expended from general revenue in 1936 on educational services was £50,365 4s. 10d.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Mail communication within the Colony is maintained by means of vessels subsidized by Government, by motor road services, by mail carriers and by itinerant vessels.

The s.s. *Malake* runs between Suva, Levuka, Savu Savu, Ndeloi (Mbutha Bay), Rambi, and the Taveuni coast twice monthly. This vessel also calls once every two months at Malau, the port for Lambasa, if so required, and four times in the year proceeds to Rotuma.

The s.s. *Andi Rewa* runs between Suva, Levuka, Nambouwalu, Ndreketi and Lambasa twice monthly, calling at certain small places en route either on the inward or outward journey.

A subsidized cutter conveys mails between Taveuni and Ndeloi (Mbutha Bay) once weekly.

Mails are conveyed by motor vehicle from Suva to Nausori, Nanduruloulou, Korovou, Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and Lautoka and return daily except Sundays, and from Lautoka to Nandi and Nandronga and return five times weekly. There is also a motor mail service three times weekly between Nausori, Korovou and Vunindawa.

Carriers are chiefly used on Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kandavu, between post offices on those islands. The services run once weekly.

External communication is provided by the British vessels *Aorangi* and *Niagara* of the Canadian-Australasian Line, to which Company a subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid, and by the American vessels *Mariposa* and *Monterey* of the Matson Navigation Company. The former vessels call at Suva, once in every four weeks, on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver, and the latter, once in every four weeks, on their voyages between Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Pago Pago, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The *Matua* provides a four-weekly cargo and passenger service between Auckland, Rarotonga, Nukualofa, Apia and Suva.

Direct steamers from London to Suva, via Panama, arrive at intervals of approximately six weeks and occasional calls are made by vessels from Australia and New Zealand travelling to ports in the United Kingdom, via Panama. Calls are also made at fairly regular intervals by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's vessel ***Fiona***.

Telephone communication is available between Suva, Nausori, Nandurulolou and Vunindawa; between Suva, Tailevu and Levuka on the island of Ovalau (communication between Tailevu and Ovalau being by submarine cable); between Suva and Navua; between Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Mba and Lautoka, and between Nandarivatu and Mba. Telephone exchange areas are Suva, Lautoka, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, and rural party lines are maintained on Taveuni (40 miles), and in the Savu Savu district on the south-east coast of Vanua Levu.

Wireless stations, operated by Amalgamated Wireless Limited, are situated at Suva, Tavenui, Lambasa, and Savu Savu. The Government operates a permanent station on the island of Rotuma, and also a temporary station at Lautoka. Wireless telephone communication exists between Levuka and the Central Leper Hospital at Makongai.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Cable and Wireless Limited, and by wireless from the Suva station with the principal groups in the Western Pacific and also with Honolulu and Sydney.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows:—

	Miles.
Metalled	200
Gravelled	282
Earth (motorable in fine weather)	102
Earth (not motorable)	52
Bridle tracks	1,583
	2,219

In addition the Suva Town Board controls 13 miles of roads, of which seven are tar and bitumen surfaced.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the two-foot gauge, laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, on the Rewa River; along the sea coast from Singatoka (south-west Viti Levu) to Tavua (north of Viti Levu); in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Viti Levu; and at Lambasa on the island of Vanua Levu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Singatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government. The total length of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles. About 220 miles of this total consist of the main line from Singatoka to Tavua, with the necessary branch lines. Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connection with the transport work of the Company.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand with one. The paid-up capital of the former was £8,780,000 at 31st December while that of the latter was £6,328,125 at 31st March. The amount of deposits held in the Colony by the Bank of New South Wales was £1,360,335 at 31st December, and by the Bank of New Zealand £391,800 at 31st March.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which the number of accounts, at the end of the year, was 9,919 and the total amount on deposit was £306,700, an increase of £36,715 over the previous year's figure. The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows:—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1936).	367,048
Cash at Bank and with Treasury	5,021
Total	£372,069

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1936 were as follows:—

	£	£
Income from investments		12,415
Interest credited to Depositors ...	7,825	
Expenses	3,383	
		11,208
Surplus		£1,207

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

Currency.

Legislation in 1933 and 1934 provided for the issue of Government currency notes and coin which follow the United Kingdom currency denominations.

The Fiji pound is linked to sterling by law at the rate of £F.111 = £100 sterling.

The position of the Note Security Fund at 31st December, 1936, was as follows:—

		Sterling. £			Fiji. £		
Liabilities ...	Notes in circulation ...				597,862	5	0
Assets ...	Note Security Fund invested portion.	594,357	8	9	659,736	15	0
	Cash with Crown Agents	29,898	7	11	33,187	4	4
	Cash with Colonial Treasurer.				14,068	13	0
		£624,255	16	8	£706,992	12	4

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures used in Fiji are the same as in England.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £240,891 18s. 4d. This expenditure was incurred under the following headings:—

	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	16,851	6	4
Public Works Recurrent	88,187	3	0
Public Works Extraordinary	38,899	10	3
Loan Funds	64,142	1	10
Miscellaneous	32,811	16	11
	£240,891	18	4

The corresponding figures for the previous five years are as follows:—

	£
1931	165,690
1932	160,747
1933	148,155
1934	190,718
1935	247,369

The Administration of the Department is under the control of the Director of Public Works, with headquarters in Suva, the execution of the works being divided into three branches under the District Engineers, Suva and Lautoka, and the Mechanical Engineer, Suva.

The Suva District comprises about one-third of Viti Levu and the majority of the other islands, including Rotuma. The headquarters are at Walu Bay, Suva, where the main stores and workshops are situated.

The Lautoka District comprises the Northern and Western portions of the Island of Viti Levu, and the Yasawa Group. The headquarters are at Lautoka, where there is a smaller depot consisting of stores and workshops.

The Mechanical Engineer's branch is responsible for the running of the principal quarry and stone crushing plant, for a fleet of nine launches and tugs, two slipways and of extensive workshops for boat building and all kinds of mechanical engineering workshop repairs.

The Rewa River Bridge is nearing completion, and will probably be opened to traffic early in June, 1937. The cylinder foundations near the Nausori approach were carried 161 feet below low water. It is believed that such depth represents a record for the southern hemisphere.

The South Coast Road, which will complete the circuminsular route, is proceeding steadily. The section between Suva and Navua was opened to traffic in March, and it is anticipated that the whole circular route will be ready early in 1938.

The loss of the motor vessel *Derek* in a hurricane early in 1936 hampered the progress of marine works generally, and beaconing, in consequence, has been at a standstill.

Plans, specifications and quantities for the new Government offices were practically completed during the year, and construction has now commenced.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

The Supreme Court consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall, within the Colony, have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *nisi prius*, with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England. It is a Court of Equity, and has, within the Colony, the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and, under an Order-in-Council dated the 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing in to Suva cases from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than five to two. Special provision is made, however, in an Order-in-Council dated 15th September, 1911, for the trial of accused persons at Lautoka, wherein it is provided, *inter alia,* that any cause triable at the Central Criminal Court by a jury shall be triable in the Circuit Court by the Chief Justice with four assessors.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. With certain exceptions male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English, are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors.

In capital cases, sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor, after considering the report in Executive Council, communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

On the Civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony, and is governed in its practice by the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adopt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England. The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are:—The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883, and Divorce Rules, 1933.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the Criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the Civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims of value less than £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in which they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of those inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is governed by Ordinance No. 22 of 1934. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in Civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by the Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The most recent edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. First, there are the Provincial Courts, composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives, and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in Civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 33 criminal cases (comprising 49 counts) heard at the sessions during 1936. The indictments comprised the following charges:—

Horse and cattle stealing...	6
Breaking and entering	6
Forgery	4
Larceny	4
Embezzlement	3
Indecent crimes	2
Murder	1
Manslaughter	1
Possession of opium	1
Assault	1
Bigamy	1
Kidnapping	1
Miscellaneous	2
	33

One hundred and fourteen civil matters were instituted in the Civil Division at the Central Registry, composed as follows:—

Actions for recovery of moneys lent	33
Moneys due under Mortgage, Lien and Bill of Sale ...	20
Goods sold and delivered...	17
Summonses and Petitions under Land (Transfer and Registration) Ordinance 1933...	7
Originating Summonses	6
Actions for possession of land	5
Specific performance	3
Actions for damages	3
Actions for recovery of rent	3
Injunctions	2
Habeas Corpus	1
Admission of Barristers	1
Actions for damages for libel	1
Mandamus	1
Moneys due on accounts	1
Miscellaneous	10
	114

Thirty-three petitions were filed in the Divorce Court in which three Europeans, five half-castes, and 25 Indians were concerned. There were 85 petitions for divorce by native Fijians and Rotumans.

Forty-four grants of probate, 23 Letters of Administration and 23 orders to reseal Colonial and other grants were made in the Probate jurisdiction. The gross value of the estates concerned in these grants was £77,962 18s. 1d. Six bankruptcy petitions came before the Bankruptcy Court. There was one application for admission as a barrister and solicitor during the year. There are now 20 European and four Indian practitioners in the Colony.

Six civil appeals and 19 criminal appeals were entered for hearing.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1931 to 1935 is given below:—

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil Appeal.*	*Criminal Appeal.*	*Grants of Probate, etc.*
1932	106	16	79	52	4	2	4	82
1933	103	15	67	35	–	2	12	89
1934	97	22	73	45	2	–	9	101
1935	119	26	85	44	10	–	8	87
1936	114	33	85	33	6	6	19	90

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Constabulary consists of a mixed force of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the Force are at Suva.

STRENGTH.

On the 31st December, 1936, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans.	
Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd Grade	7
Fijians.	
Non-Commissioned Officers	22
Constables	89
Indians.	
Non-Commissioned Officers	13
Constables	75

ARMAMENT AND TRAINING.

The Force is armed with S.M.L.E. Mk. III rifle; all recruits undergo a course of training in police duties before being posted as constables.

Special constables under the command of the Inspector-General may be called upon when necessary in cases of tumult or riot.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioners.

EXPENDITURE.

The total cost of the Force was £24,505 0s. 5d., being a rate per head of population of 29·64 pence.

CRIME.

The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,318, classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	187
Offences against property	198
Other offences, mainly against revenue laws.	1,889
Committed for Trial by Supreme Court :—	
Offences against the person	20
Offences against property	21
Other offences	3

TRAFFIC.

The Constabulary control traffic in the Colony and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1936 was 1,676 made up as follows:—

Motor cars for private use	667
Public motor cars	248
Lorries for private use	313
Public charabancs	341
Motor cycles	107

Seven hundred and seventy persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

Heavy motor vehicles exceeding 2½ tons gross weight unladen and the use of motor vehicles having a loaded weight of more than six tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed; and road bridges are mostly designed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

Prisons.

The control of prisons in this Colony is under Ordinance No. 7 of 1913 vested in the Superintendent of Prisons, subject to the orders of the Governor.

The main central gaol is situated at Suva, of which the Superintendent of Prisons is also Superintendent. This gaol is an up-to-date establishment, prisoners are confined in modern buildings of brick and concrete, with separate cells for each prisoner, there is adequate ventilation and light. All buildings are lighted by electricity.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

The industries established for vocational training are tinsmithing, blacksmithing, tailoring, awning and canvas works, carpentry and bakery. There is also an electrical sawing plant. All industries are under direct supervision of European overseers.

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

The gaol infirmary is of modern construction and well equipped. An Indian medical practitioner is in residence and acts under the direct supervision of a European visiting medical officer who visits three times weekly.

Health of prisoners during the year has been exceptionally good.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Prisoners are supplied with religious instruction according to their various religions.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Juvenile offenders are detained on the island of Makaluva, a sandy atoll some seven miles from Suva, under the care of a European officer under the direction of the Superintendent of Prisons. There is a Board of Visitors.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisoned with hard labour.

STAFF.

The Gaoler and Overseers at the central gaol are Europeans as also are the Superintendents in charge of Provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists of Fijians and Indians.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

During the year there were two cases of corporal punishment inflicted by caning.

XIV.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The system of Native Administration makes practical use of the Communal System and is regulated by the Native Regulation Code. These provide for the carrying out of all communal duties, such as housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of food crops, maintenance of communal property, care of the sick, control of infectious diseases and many other matters of public benefit. These also provide for the levying of rates to defray the cost of the provincial administration. The constitution of the various Councils is provided for in these Regulations. These Councils are the Council of Chiefs of Fiji, which sits every two years, the Provincial Councils which sit annually, and the District Councils which sit monthly. These Councils pass resolutions which when they have the approval of the Governor are enforceable. The Provincial Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. These Councils have power with regard to their respective provinces similar to those enjoyed by District Councils, and also elect representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. The Council of Chiefs is composed of Native Chiefs, Chiefs nominated by the Governor and representatives elected by the Provincial Councils. The Council of Chiefs also nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives for the Legislative Council. The Native Regulations are administered by Native Magistrates in special Native Courts and deal with infringements and offences. This system of Native Councils and Courts provides the Fijians with a fair measure of self-government, and ensures an adequate representation of the wishes and aspirations of the natives.

The Great Council of Chiefs met during the year and passed thirty resolutions which covered a wide field—the most important of which was the following:—"That in the opinion of this Council, it is in the best interests of the Native race, that all lands (including leases) not required for the maintenance of the Fijian owners be opened for settlement; that to further this end a Committee be appointed to inquire into and determine the amount of land needed for the proper development by the Native owners; and that all land (including leases) not so required be handed over to the Government to lease on behalf of the Fijians."

Medical care is given by European Medical Officers and Nurses, Native Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses distributed throughout the Group, and is well fitted to cope with epidemics of which there were several during the year. Dysentery and measles took a heavy toll of the young life. Mumps also was very prevalent.

Child Welfare Work was continued but the results of this campaign amongst the native mothers are not quickly evident. There are five European Infant Welfare Nurses stationed throughout the Colony and a sixth nurse, who is in charge of the hospital at Taveuni, gives valuable assistance on that island. There are in addition to the Europeans, 14 Native Child Welfare Nurses stationed in various parts of the Group. This staff is assisted by voluntary workers in various places and by Women's Committees in every province. The control of this organization is in the hands of a Central Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary for Native Affairs as Chairman, the Director of Medical Services and the District Commissioner, Rewa. District Committees under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner have been formed in each district.

On the 26th April a census of the population was taken, and the figures revealed that the total Fijian population was 97,651, and had increased since 1921 by 13,176. The total number of births during the year was 3,715 (equal to a rate of 37·80 per 1,000 of the population). The total deaths were 2,755 (or 28·03 per 1,000). The increase of births over deaths during the year was 960.

Educational work is now largely in the hands of the Provincial Administration in place of the missionaries. Government assists by grants-in-aid where the school employs registered teachers.

The necessary finances are provided through the Native Administration—in some cases by levies and in others by voluntary subscriptions. For higher education a few boys are sent away to Australia or New Zealand by their parents and in certain cases assistance is given by the Government or the Province.

There is now a definite movement amongst the Fijians themselves to cultivate the soil. Every opportunity is being taken by the Administration to encourage and foster this feeling as it is in the cultivation of their lands that the future prosperity of the Fijians ultimately lies. With this object in view, education with an agricultural bias is being fostered.

There was a serious localized hurricane which devastated a few of the islands in the southern part of the Lau Group. Those islands rely entirely on coconuts as a means of revenue and payment of rates and taxes and the people were given famine relief.

The total exports of copra amounted to 34,581 tons valued at £406,393. Approximately two-thirds of this is produced by Fijians.

The export of bananas overseas was as follows:—

	Cases.
To New Zealand	158,009
„ Canada	9,477
„ Australia	1,493
Total	168,979

Of the above amount 90·2 per cent. was produced by Fijian growers as compared with 85·4 per cent. in 1935.

In 1936, the native tax payable to Government was reduced from £16,000 to £10,000 and was amalgamated with the Provincial Rate to facilitate payment. This new combined rate is now paid to the Provincial Funds in the usual way and the Province makes a direct payment to Government.

The amount of Provincial Revenue for 1936 was £37,346 6s. 11d. while expenditure amounted to £35,120 7s. 9d.

XV.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics and Allied Questions.

The Census which was taken on the 26th April showed the Indian population of the Colony to be 85,002, which falls short of the estimate for the 31st December, 1935, by 890, but exceeds the figure of the last census, taken in 1921, by 24,368.

The proportion of females to males had risen from a ratio of 6·5 to 10 in 1921 to a ratio of 7·2 to 10 in 1936. The adjustment of the sex ratio is a gradual process and conditions still demand the strict control of the immigration of single males.

During 1936, 3,484 Indian births were registered, being a birth-rate of 40·15 per 1,000 and 1,069 deaths, giving a death-rate of 12·32 per 1,000. The excess of births over deaths was 2,414 and the estimated population on the 31st December was 86,778.

The Census reveals the interesting fact that approximately 61,000 of the 85,000 Indians were born in the Colony. The census showed that there are 70,989 Hindus, 11,290 Moslems, 1,068 Sikhs, and 1,655 Christians.

Immigration and Emigration.

During 1936, 650 Indians arrived in the Colony, being 463 males and 187 females. During the same period there were 513 departures, being 404 males and 109 females. Immigration for the year therefore exceeded emigration by 137. There has been no change in the policy of restricting immigration from India, and in the present circumstances none is indicated. There is no tendency for genuine plantation labourers to come to the Colony from India.

The majority of immigrants, and of applicants for immigration permits, in recent years have been Gujeratis and Punjabis, the actual classification of arrivals by the last direct steamer being as follows:—

	Male.	*Female.*	*Total.*
Punjabis	88	44	132
Gujeratis	271	100	371
Calcuttans	24	10	34
Madrasis	22	19	41
	405	173	578

The position regarding repatriation remains unchanged with the number fixed at between 100 and 200, those returning being either aged persons returning to spend their remaining days in India, or younger people availing themselves of the concession of a free passage one way to take a holiday in India. The s.s. *Ganges* made her usual round voyage between India and Fiji and all Government passengers, who numbered 171 in 1936, were sent in her.

Destitution.

Little destitution and practically no poverty are found among Indians in Fiji. The Government maintains a Poor House which is situated near Suva, for the benefit of those Indians who, by reason of old age or other infirmity, are incapable of earning their livelihood. There is also in force a system of outdoor relief which is intended to subsidize friends and relatives and encourage a spirit of self-help in the community. Fifty-two persons were in receipt of out-door relief during 1936.

The position as regards Indians maintained on a permanent basis in Government institutions was as follows:—

	Men.	*Women.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total on 31st December.*
Poor House ...	13	4	1	–	18
Mental Hospital ...	40	18	–	–	58
Leper Station Makongai.	137	44	12	6	199

Economic, Social and Political.

The year was favourable to the agriculturist, and the Indian cane growers produced 997,008 tons which they sold to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for £743,645, or an average price of 14s. 11d. per ton. There are now 23,062 acres leased by the Company to their tenants, while a further 22,166 acres of land under cultivation with sugar-cane is held by Indians in the form of Native leases or otherwise. The average yield per acre for the Company's tenants was 24·2 tons, as compared with 19·8 tons for the independent growers. Indian agriculturists will benefit greatly from the decision of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to embark on the pineapple industry.

The improvement in the standard of the domestic life of Indians has been well maintained. The community continues to show increasing understanding of the advantage of legal marriage, and 903 Indian marriages were registered in 1936. The year was noteworthy for a gratifying absence of sectarian disputes.

General.

The Reverend C. F. Andrews came to Fiji at the invitation of the Indian Association of Fiji on the 5th May, 1936, and remained in the Colony until the 4th June. He had not visited Fiji since 1917, and on the occasion of his present visit he devoted the whole of the short time at his disposal to investigating the present position of Indians in Fiji in all walks of life. Mr. Andrews commented favourably on the improvements that have taken place, and gave helpful advice on education and other social matters. He was followed on the 27th August, 1936, by Mr. Kodando Rao of the Servants of India Society, whose stay of approximately six weeks was devoted to a general investigation of the condition of Indians in Fiji.

XVI.—LEGISLATION.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1936, of which the following are the principal:—

The Boxing and Wrestling Contests Ordinance provides a measure of control over all boxing and wrestling contests in the Colony. The Ordinance is based on legislation of New Zealand.

The Post Office Ordinance replaces the Postal Ordinance, 1877, which had long called for revision, in such a way as to provide for modern requirements and to ensure that the rules of the Universal Postal Convention are being complied with in this Colony.

The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance provides in effect that the registered proprietor of any design registered in the United Kingdom under the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 to 1932, shall enjoy in the Colony all the rights he enjoys under the United Kingdom Acts. This Ordinance repeals the Designs Ordinance, 1933, by which provision was made for the local registration of designs and also the registration of United Kingdom designs at a reduced fee because it was found in practice that this form of legislation was not required.

The Stamp Duties (Amendment) Ordinance makes several amendments to the Stamp Duties Ordinance, 1920. The most important is that made in respect of the duty on agreements or contracts for sale which were previously liable to 4s. stamp duty only. Under this Ordinance certain of these agreements or contracts are made liable for *ad valorem* stamp duty as if they were transfers on sale. When a transfer is made in pursuance of such agreement duly stamped with *ad valorem* stamp duty, however, the transfer will not be liable to any further duty but the fact that full duty has been paid will be endorsed thereon.

Particulars of Factory Legislation, Compensation for Accidents Legislation, and Legislative Provisions for Sickness, Old Age, etc.

The Steam Boilers Ordinance, 1915, provides for compensation for accidents to persons in connection with steam boilers.

The Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1935, empowers the Governor in Council to fix a minimum wage for any occupation either generally or in any district if he is satisfied that the wages for that occupation are unreasonably low.

XVII.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	147,140
1932 ...	547,461	528,604	449,743	283,746	165,997
1933 ...	605,201	569,984	590,660	389,446	201,214
1934 ...	782,914	722,963	770,343	509,178	261,165
1935 ...	733,432	641,181	857,694	504,278	353,416
1936 ...	796,630	677,152	898,373	425,479	472,894

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931, but increased at the end of 1936 to £472,894.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1936, was as under:—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928)	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929). ...	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932) ...	154,996
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 and Ordinance No. 17 of 1934).	182,497
Total (sterling)	£1,273,901

The loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928 and is redeemable between 1946-53. The stock bears interest at 5 per cent. and was issued at 101.

A second loan sufficient to produce £170,000 was authorised in 1929. It was arranged that it should be in the form of a direct loan to be provided by the Crown Agents for the Colonies and is redeemable in 1955. During that year, £80,204 was made available for public purposes and the balance was provided in 1930. The loan bears interest at 5 per cent.

The Public Works Loan, sufficient to produce £160,000, was raised in 1932 by the Crown Agents in two instalments, on 2nd August and 3rd November, at the price of £102 and £105 respectively for each £100 of stock. This loan bears interest at 4 per cent., and sinking fund contribution is at the rate of 2·32 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st February, 1959.

The Rewa Bridge Loan of £75,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 (as amended by Ordinance No. 11 of 1931 and Ordinance No. 5 of 1934) and the Public Works Loan of £105,000 authorized under Ordinance No. 17 of 1934 were raised as a single loan of £180,000 by the Crown Agents in November, 1934. Fiji Government Inscribed stock was created to the nominal value of £182,497 of which £120,000 was sold to the market at 99 and the balance was taken up by the Crown Agents at the same price on behalf of various Colonial Government funds. The annual rate of interest is 3 per cent. and the Sinking Fund contribution is at the rate of 1·56 per cent. per annum. The stock is redeemable on 1st December, 1970, with optional redemption, in whole or in part, on or after 1st December, 1960.

The sinking fund in connection with the Specific Loan amounted to £73,181 at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £25,336 Fiji. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £25,439 Fiji at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan, 1959, amounted to £16,961 Fiji at the close of the year, and for the Public Works Loan, 1960-70, to £6,419 Fiji.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year amounted to £796,630, an increase of £63,198 as compared with 1935. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows:—

	£
Customs	462,007
Port, wharfage and light dues	28,226
Native taxes	12,923
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	106,176
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and re-imbursements-in-aid.	68,447
Post Office	28,394
Rent of Government property	14,297
Interest	41,576
Miscellaneous	25,681
Land sales and premia on leases	351
Colonial Development Fund	6,085
Extraordinary Receipts	2,466

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income tax were £3,609, £5,019, and £31,207, respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £22,798. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a Sub-accountant by the end of March each year: penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment. Where alternative rates are given the higher is charged.

On most articles subject to ***ad valorem*** duty the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and benzine on which duties of 9d. and 8d. per gallon respectively are levied irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty:—

> Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; Church furniture; infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weedkillers; wire netting, galvanised, of not less than 4 in. mesh; wire galvanized fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries:—

> Animals; birds and fish living; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; periodicals and music printed; coconuts, collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony.

Machinery imported pays the following rates of duty:—

> Agricultural implements and butter-making and milking machines pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem* if of British manufacture and 25 per cent. *ad valorem* if of foreign manufacture; agricultural machines; sugar-making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery pay the British preferential rate of 15 per cent. and the general rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following are some of the principal articles that are admitted at specific rates of duty:—

> Ale and beer in bottles, 2s. 6d. a gallon British preferential rate, 4s. 6d. a gallon general rate; confectionery, 3d. a lb. plus 10 per cent. British preferential rate

and 6d. a lb. plus 30 per cent. general rate; cornflour, 1d. a lb. and 1½d. a lb.; cinema films free British preferential rate and 3d. per 100 feet general rate; flour, 40s. per ton of 2,000 lb. British preferential rate, 60s. per ton general rate; Sharps, 30s. per ton British preferential rate, 50s. per ton general rate; dried ginger, 1d. a lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; matches wooden, in boxes containing not more than 60 matches, British preferential rate per gross boxes, 4s. 6d., general rate 6s. 9d. per gross; hops 1s. a lb. and 2s. a lb.; maize, 6d. a bushel and 10½d. a bushel; malt extract, non-spirituous, 1s. a lb. and 1s. 9d. a lb.; meats, 1d. per lb. and 2d. per lb.; oatmeal, 1d. per lb. and 1¾d. a lb.; soap, plain, 1d. a lb. and 2d. a lb.; spices, 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.; tea, 6d. a lb. containing no less than 75 per cent. British growth and 9d. a lb.; tobacco, manufactured, 7s. and 10s. 6d. a lb.; cigars, 9s. and 13s. 6d. a lb.; cigarettes, 8s. and 12s. a lb.; timber, rough, 2s. and 4s. per 100 superficial feet; timber, dressed, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. per 100 superficial feet; spirits, 26s. and 39s. a gallon; wines, still, 4s. and 6s. a gallon; wines, sparkling, 10s. and 15s. a gallon; macaroni and vermicelli, 2d. a lb. and 3½d. a lb.

The following are the principal articles which are subject to alternative rates of duty:—

Bicycles, preferential rate 15s. each or *ad valorem* 20 per cent. whichever rate returns the higher duty. General rate 30s. each or 40 per cent.

Boots and shoes, rubber and canvas, British preferential rate 6d. to 1s. per pair according to sizes or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. General rate 1s. 7½d. to 2s. 1½d. or 40 per cent.

Textile piece-goods, British preferential rate 1d. to 3d. per yard according to width or 20 per cent. General rate 2d. to 6d. or 40 per cent.

Hats and caps, of all kinds, British preferential rate 6d. each or 20 per cent., general rate 1s. or 40 per cent.

Shirts, including blouses, jumpers, cardigans, jerseys, pullovers, sweaters, and similar garments, British preferential rate 4s. to 6s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. to 12s. or 40 per cent.

Singlets or undervests, sizes up to 28 inches, per dozen, 1s. preferential rate, general rate 2s., sizes exceeding 28 inches per dozen, 2s. preferential rate and 4s. general rate; or *ad valorem* 20 per cent. preferential rate, 40 per cent. general rate, whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Towels, bath and face, exceeding 24 inches in length, British preferential rate 2s. per dozen or 20 per cent., general rate 4s. or 40 per cent.

Umbrellas, parasols and sunshades, each, British preferential rate 6d., general rate 1s., or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Electric lamp bulbs, incandescent filament, having at the marked voltage, a power consumption—

Not exceeding 8 watts, each, British preferential rate 1d., general rate 2d.

Exceeding 8 watts and not exceeding 80 watts each, British preferential rate 2d., general rate 4d. Exceeding 80 watts, each, British preferential rate 3d., general rate 6d., or *ad valorem* 20 per cent., 40 per cent., whichever rate returns the higher duty.

Wrapping paper, British preferential rate 5s. per cwt. or 20 per cent., general rate 8s. 9d. or 40 per cent.

Spirits, perfumed and scented waters, British preferential rate 26s. and 10 per cent. per liquid gallon or 20 per cent., general rate 39s. per gallon and 25 per cent., or 40 per cent.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff but aims at fostering, as far as possible, local industries, and in this regard affords protection to the rice industry by imposing a duty of £2 per ton under the British preferential rate and £3 per ton under the foreign rate, and provides, further, that if the cost, duty paid and landed at a Customs shed at a port of entry in the Colony, falls below £15 per ton, the duty shall be increased by such amount as shall bring such landed cost duty paid to £15 per ton. It provides, further, for the admission free of duty of bags and sacks over two bushels of British origin.

Protection is also afforded to the local butter industry by the imposition of a duty of 4d. per pound on all fresh butter imported and provides for the admission free of duty of boxes of wood made up or in shooks of British origin to be used as containers of butter the produce of the Colony.

The soap industry is also protected by a duty of 1d. per pound under the British preferential rate and 2d. per pound under the general tariff rate on soap, laundry, in bar or cake, and sandsoap, and, with a view to affording further assistance to this industry the tariff was recently amended providing for the admission free of duty of resin and tallow of British manufacture, which previously paid a duty of 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively.

XVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Before the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the Native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the Natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of Native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years, subject to reassessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to reassessment in the 33rd and 66th years, or in the 30th and 60th years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to reassessment in the 25th and 50th years. In all cases the rent is subject to reassessment to a maximum not exceeding 5 per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor in Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor in Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with the upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas in country districts are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1936:—

Nature of title.	*No. of title.*	*Area.*	*No. of lots.*	*Estimated. area.*	*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold ...	1,596	532,638	—	—	532,638	—
Leases of Crown Lands.	815	21,555	72	997	22,552	—
Leases of Native Lands.	7,955	300,847	295	7,174	308,021	—
					863,211	4,523,620

Six hundred and seventy-nine applications for leases of native lands aggregating 12,079 acres were received during the year. Of these 291 applications for 3,468 acres were approved and 296 applications for 6,853 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 89 per cent. of the total. One hundred and fifty-one applications for leases of Crown Lands aggregated 6,766 acres. Of these 53 applications for 4,046 acres were approved and 79 applications for 1,393 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of Native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Matanggali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, and two Native chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of Native officers and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor in Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of Native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land, and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor in Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission completed the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of land-owners of illegitimate birth in the provinces of Thakaundrove, Mathuata and Lomaiviti. Ratu Sukuna, conjointly with his duties as District Commissioner, continued enquiries in the province of Lau. The preparation of the various registers of Native lands and Native land-owners was continued by the office staff of the Commission.

SURVEY.

The temporary survey staff attached to the Native Lands Commission was further reduced during the year by the termination of the appointments of six officers and by the transfer of another officer, in a temporary capacity, to a post on the staff of the Lands and Survey Department. The effective strength during 1936 was three European surveyors and three native assistants. Surveyors were employed in the provinces of Tailevu and Tholo North and in the Yasawa Islands in the province of Lautoka. The area surveyed during the year amounted to 53,875 acres, bringing the total area surveyed for the Native Lands Commission since 1912 to 3,539,307 acres.

The strength of the survey staff of the Lands and Survey Department was increased to six officers. Three senior members of the staff were continuously employed in administrative work at headquarters, in the examination of plans and in miscellaneous surveys in Suva including alignment surveys for the Suva Town Board. The remaining members of the staff were employed in country districts in the survey of leased lands, the design and subdivision of Indian settlements, contour and detail surveys for proposed townships and other miscellaneous work. Instructions for the survey of leases of native and Crown lands were issued by the Crown Surveyor to seven surveyors in private practice. Four hundred and thirty-six plans of surveys made by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Meteorological.

Meteorological observations were taken twice daily at Suva throughout the year at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., Local Standard Time. A summary of these observations is set out in the table below.

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT SUVA—FIJI.

1936.

Months.	*Mean pressure in Inches. (Corrected to 32° F., 45° Lat. and M.S.L. (8 a.m. and 2 p.m.)*	*Air Temperature F.* *Mean Dry Bulb.*		*Mean Wet Bulb.*		*Means of*		*Mean.*	*Absolute Max. and Min.*				*Mean Percentage of Relative Humidity (Saturation = 100).*		*Total Rainfall (Inches).*	*Sunshine (Hours and Tenths).*		*Mean hourly wind velocity.*
						Max.	*Min.*		*Max.*	*Date.*	*Min.*	*Date.*				*Total.*	*Mean.*	
		8 a.m.	*2 p.m.*	*8 a.m.*	*2 p.m.*								*8 a.m.*	*2 p.m.*				
January ...	29·759	80·3	83·7	76·3	77·4	86·6	75·6	81·1	92	26	70	7	80·3	75·2	9·38	192·6	6·2	7·2
February ...	29·758	81·2	86·2	77·2	79·0	87·7	76·3	82·0	91	20	73	Var.	82·6	72·0	9·14	224·2	7·7	7·6
March ...	29·797	80·4	85·6	76·8	78·7	88·2	75·2	81·7	94	24	73	8, 22	84·3	73·3	11·56	205·2	6·6	5·9
April ...	29·818	80·2	85·6	76·2	77·9	87·4	74·6	81·0	93	18	72	Var.	82·9	70·3	7·60	204·2	6·8	6·4
May ...	29·864	75·8	79·6	73·1	74·8	81·4	72·4	76·9	89	7	67	29	87·7	80·0	25·63	87·9	2·8	7·9
June ...	29·985	73·4	78·1	69·2	70·9	79·6	69·4	74·5	86	29	65	26, 27	80·3	69·2	3·42	160·9	5·4	8·1
July ...	29·976	73·0	77·5	69·3	71·2	79·0	69·9	74·5	86	1	66	6, 7	82·5	72·6	3·37	128·3	4·1	8·4
August ...	29·928	73·0	77·9	68·7	70·3	79·4	68·3	73·8	85	1	63	6	79·6	67·2	3·03	196·8	6·3	7·1
September	29·976	73·3	77·2	69·2	70·5	78·8	69·1	73·9	86	28	64	6	80·4	71·0	7·03	123·8	4·1	7·5
October ...	29·918	76·4	79·6	72·8	74·2	81·4	70·6	76·0	89	11	65	2	83·5	77·1	27·31	178·0	5·7	8·0
November...	29·814	78·8	82·4	73·4	74·7	84·3	72·7	78·5	91	23	67	8	77·1	68·9	10·40	239·2	8·0	7·9
December ...	29·836	79·5	83·4	73·7	75·1	84·5	73·7	79·1	88	31	67	5	75·8	67·3	12·06	227·5	7·3	8·1
Year ...	29·869	77·1	81·4	73·0	74·6	83·2	72·3	77·75	—	—	—	—	81·6	72·0	129·93	2,168·6	5·9	7·5

Rainfall for the year 1936 was 10·23 inches in excess of normal (119·70 inches). The months May and October, 1936, were the wettest on record. From June to September a noticeable dry spell occurred. On the whole the weather during the year 1936 was much brighter and more pleasant than the three preceding years.

The following table gives the total rainfall at certain stations in Fiji during 1936 and the averages over a period of years:—

Station.	*No. of Years.*	*Total Rainfall.*	*Average Rainfall.*
Lakemba	11	79·27	75·13
Lambasa	42	79·90	81·82
Lautoka	36	62·44	69·61
Lawangga	30	52·99	69·63
Levuka	42	117·85	91·49
Nandarivatu	36	105·53	138·36
Nambouwalu	18	80·67	104·86
Rarawai	42	65·18	81·17
Salialevu	21	204·79	211·11
Suva	52	129·93	119·70
Vunindawa...	24	143·76	142·90
Wainunu	57	136·41	147·49

Rainfall was generally much below normal particularly during the months June to September during which period a number of stations reported no rain during some of these months. Excess of rainfall was mainly confined to the South-Eastern portion of Viti Levu (though some deficiencies occurred in this area) six stations in Lau and also Ngau and Vuna. November to April is the wet season, the remaining six months being comparatively dry.

A severe hurricane which originated near the Union Group passed through Southern Lau on 19th January. Winds of hurricane force were, however, confined to a small area. The Island of Komo appears to have suffered most. A small cyclone developed eastwards of Vanua Levu on 13th February, and moved in a S.S.E. direction through the Lau Group.

General.

His Excellency Sir A. G. Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., proceeded on leave on 1st May, prior to his transfer to Trinidad, and Mr. C. J. J. T. Barton, O.B.E., Colonial Secretary, assumed duty as Acting Governor, and as Acting High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and Dr. V. W. T. McGusty was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir A. F. Richards, K.C.M.G., formerly Governor of Gambia, arrived in the Colony on 28th November, and assumed duty as Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Mr. O. C. K. Corrie, M.C., formerly Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Palestine, arrived in the Colony on 2nd July and assumed duty as Chief Justice.

Mr. C. J. J. T. Barton, O.B.E., formerly Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, Kenya, arrived in the Colony on 6th March and assumed duty as Colonial Secretary.

News of the death of His Majesty King George V was received shortly before 1 p.m., local time, on 21st January. The Accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII was proclaimed on 23rd January, and on the same day was held a special meeting of the Legislative Council who passed resolutions of sympathy with the Royal Family and of loyalty to His Majesty King Edward VIII. The Accession of His Majesty King George VI was proclaimed in Fiji at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday, 12th December.

A short session of the Legislative Council was held in June, with two meetings on 24th and 25th June. At the session held in October, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1937 were passed. Meetings were held on 23rd, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st October.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publisher or Agents.*	*Price*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.)	6s.
Viti. By Berthold Seeman ...	Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London. 1862	10s.
King and People of Fiji. By Rev. J. Waterhouse.	Wesleyan Conference Office. 1866...	
Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904 ...	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson ...	Heineman, London. 1905 ...	25s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	Seely, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922	21s.
Journal of William Lockerby ...	Hakluyt Society, Cambridge University Press. 1925 ...	
Journal of Thomas Williams. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 2 vols. 1931 ...	
Fiji and Fijians, 1835–1856. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London... ...	25s.
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Murray, London. 1933 ...	15s.

The following official publications can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, or from the Government Printer, Suva.

The Colony of Fiji—Handbook, 1937 (when ready). Lib. edition. 3s. Mag. edition, 2s.

Annual Blue Book, 1936. 5s.

Census Report, 1936. 5s.

Forests of the Colony of Fiji—Report by Mr. R. A. Sykes (without maps). 2s.

Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, 1936. 2s.

Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture, 1936. 1s.

The Agricultural Journal, published half-yearly or more frequently if required, is obtainable from the Director of Agriculture, Suva. 1s. per copy.

Postage is charged extra on all official publications.

A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—Handbook, 1937."

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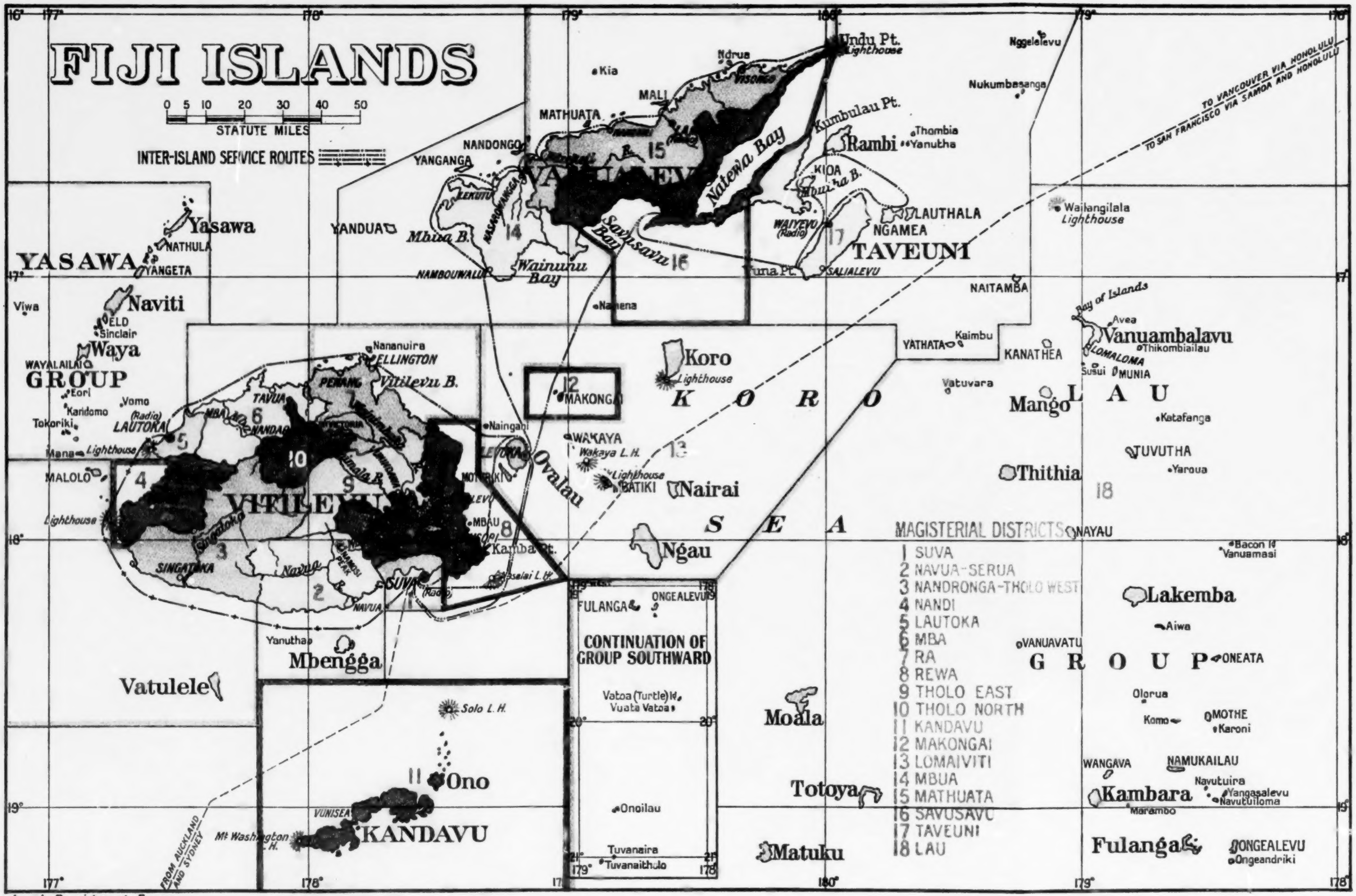
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Wailangilala Lighthouse
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CONTINUATION OF GROUP SOUTHWARD
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Ongealevu
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4 NANDI
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1937

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PRONUNCIATION OF FIJIAN WORDS

When used in the spelling of Fijian names and place names the following letters symbolize the sounds shown :—

c = th (soft) as in "*th*is"
b = mb as in "nu*mb*er"
d = nd as in "u*nd*er"
g = ng as in "si*ng*er"
q = ngg as in "fi*ng*er"

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji, which is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean, is composed of a group of some 250 islands, which lie between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east. Only about 80 of these islands are inhabited. The largest island is Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanua Levu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, which is situated on the south-east side of Viti Levu, is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. Fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called "soapstone") and limestones are extensively found on Viti Levu. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as, for instance, Nambukelevu, on Kadovu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Viti Levu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanua Levu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, if intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by the smaller inter-insular trading vessels, with a number of excellent deep-water anchorages.

Climate.

The climate of Fiji is oceanic. The south-east trade-wind blows from May to November and during the remaining months the direction of the wind is variable. Between December and April when hot northerly winds blow from the Equator the temperature may occasionally rise as high as 96° F. and the humidity may reach saturation point. The total average annual rainfall varies in the well defined "wet" and "dry" zones from 60 to 140 in. and the temperature varies from a minimum of 60° F. to a maximum of 96° F.

The highest temperature in the shade at Suva in 1937 was 94° F. on the 15th January, and the lowest 63° F. on the 16th August. In 1937, in the "wet" zone, the mean minimum shade temperature was 73·1° F. and the mean maximum 83·3° F., with a mean humidity of 82·3 per cent. In the "dry" zone the corresponding temperature figures were 70·8° F. and 86·0° F. and the mean humidity considerably less. The capital, Suva, is situated in the "wet" zone. The total rainfall at Suva was 106·63 in. and in Lautoka 67·35 in. The average annual rainfall for Suva is 119·46 in. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of a voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef-strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Udu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of Vatoa, one of the most southerly islands in the Group, and the neighbouring waters in 1774, and Bligh, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of 39 islands, including the principal island of Viti Levu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive, though somewhat inaccurate, chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral-strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work " Discoverers of the Fiji Islands." (*See* Appendix.)

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza,* with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the Kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several States which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman, named Connor, attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanua Levu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter,* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal State. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the neighbouring sovereign State of Cakandrove; so that, later, when the missionaries extended their activities the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who by their prowess in war, were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at

Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji "acknowledged, ratified and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Great Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton caused by the American Civil War led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and subsequently the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands made by the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Group, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 2nd April, 1937 and the Royal Instructions dated the 9th February, 1929, as amended by certain Additional Instructions dated the 2nd April, 1937.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary and Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, three *ex officio* members, thirteen official members, five European members, of whom three are elected and two nominated, five native nominated members, and five Indian members, of whom three are elected and two nominated. The *ex officio* members are the persons for the time being discharging the functions of the respective offices of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Treasurer of the Colony. The official members are persons holding offices of emolument under the Crown in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European elected members are elected by male persons of 21 years of age and upwards, who are of European descent, are British subjects, can read, write and speak the English language, and who are possessed of a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted by the Great Council of native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of an Indian elector are that he must be a male British subject, of Indian descent, of 21 years of age and upwards and able to read and write a simple sentence and sign his name either in English or in one of the six main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The European and Indian nominated members are appointed by the Governor, and must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown in the Colony.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the

Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

The administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka was transferred, by Ordinance No. 15 of 1935, from elected Councils to Nominated Boards.

Levuka was proclaimed a Township under the Townships Ordinance of 1928 with effect from 1st July, 1935.

The Towns Ordinance was passed in December, 1935, and provides for the appointment of a Suva Town Board, to consist of seven official members, two European unofficial members, two Fijian unofficial members, and two Indian unofficial members, all of whom are to be nominated by the Governor.

The Town Board is responsible for the administration of the town of Suva, having jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter houses, traffic regulations, and building construction. The Board levies rates and also collects licence fees from businesses carried on within the town. The electricity supply of Suva is under the management of the Town Board.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are three proclaimed townships in the Colony, Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, Nausori in the district of Rewa, and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1935, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XVII, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of approximately 2,900, an entirely different language is spoken which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number over 89,000, a form of Hindustani, which pays little attention to grammar, is generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Caranese languages, or dialects, are also spoken. It is probable that in the course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of approximately 1,837 speak Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Fiji on the 31st December, 1937, was estimated to be as follows:—

> Europeans, 4,238; persons of European and native descent, 4,756; Fijians, 99,595; Polynesians, 1,567; Indians, 89,333; Rotumans, 2,915; Chinese, 1,837; others, 1,156; making a total population of 205,397. Of this total, Fijians comprised 48·49 per cent., Indians 43·49 per cent., and Europeans 2·06 per cent.

The density of population was estimated at 27·64 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population was estimated at 0·39 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population was 208·21 to the square mile.

There were 7,284 births registered during the year, which was a decrease of 350 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1930 to 1937:—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Europeans ...	16·94	17·20	16·04	16·03	8·82	12·56	15·39	16·75
P.E.N.D. ...	30·30	43·82	38·61	39·88	24·21	42·12	34·44	31·54
Fijians ...	36·43	35·34	34·32	35·10	37·52	36·53	37·80	34·46
Rotumans ...	54·91	46·95	39·47	50·38	36·83	51·54	38·33	44·25
Indians ...	36·02	33·45	38·44	38·67	37·19	37·37	40·15	37·58

There were 3,225 deaths registered during the year, which was 831 less than in 1936. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1930 to 1937:—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Europeans ...	9·45	9·09	6·79	8·74	6·93	6·89	7·93	8·49
P.E.N.D. ...	14·70	11·03	9·86	9·01	9·15	8·53	11·19	8·41
Fijians ...	31·24	22·22	17·88	17·72	19·78	21·79	28·03	21·37
Rotumans ...	27·03	14·54	19·12	24·99	46·01	26·94	23·56	19·90
Indians ...	12·30	10·19	8·40	11·37	10·15	8·10	12·32	10·09

The deaths under one year per thousand births were:—

> Europeans, 14·08; persons of European and native descent, 53·33; Fijians, 96·45; Indians, 55·70; Rotumans, 77·52; Total 74·55.

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1930 to 1937:—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Europeans ...	33	38	32	27	32	32	31	46
P.E.N.D. ...	21	18	23	40	33	37	32	44
Fijians ...	744	1,085	766	833	778	838	817	816
Rotumans ...	15	29	25	26	16	28	29	22
Indians ...	1,926	954	911	1,071	1,038	921	903	875

The marriage rates per thousand of the population were:—

> Europeans, 10·85; persons of European and native descent, 9·25; Fijians, 8·19; Indians, 9·79; Rotumans, 7·55; Total 8·98.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised by the police to prevent destitute and undesirable immigrants arriving in the Colony.

Emigration of Fijians (including Rotumans) is regulated by the Emigrants Ordinance of 1892.

Under the provisions of the Indian Immigrants (Repatriation) Ordinance of 1930, Indians introduced into the Colony under the provisions of any previous Indian Immigration Ordinance and who were at the time of introduction above the age of 12 years, and children of such immigrants, under certain circumstances, are entitled to repatriation to India.

The following are statistics of emigration and immigration in 1937:—

EMIGRATION.

Class.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,338	4,028	58·04
Indians	60	85,002	·0705
Chinese	90	1,751	5·13
Pacific Islanders ...	118	107,520	·109
Others	59	78	75·64

IMMIGRATION.

Class.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,442	4,028	60·62
Indians	151	85,002	·177
Chinese	111	1,751	6·33
Pacific Islanders ...	216	107,520	·200
Others	37	78	47·43

The above figures include a number of tourists who stayed for short periods.

IV.—HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of 16 medical officers under the direct control of the Director of Medical Services. A pathologist has charge of the laboratories which are situated in the grounds of the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

Suva, Lautoka and Levuka are first ports of entry for overseas shipping, but the first named is the only port equipped for the fumigation of shipping against rats and mosquitoes. The port health staff at Suva consists of the Medical Officer of Health, two qualified European inspectors, one Fijian and two Indian locally qualified sanitary inspectors, one Fijian sanitary inspector in training and one rat-catcher.

During the year, pratique was granted to 155 vessels (registered net tonnage 911,157) entering the Port of Suva, entailing the medical inspection of 3,323 passengers and 3,802 members of crews. In the town of Suva the Medical Officer of Health acts in an advisory capacity on health matters to the Town Board, which employs one European sanitary inspector to look after the sanitation of the town.

In the country districts the control of health and sanitation is in the hands of 12 District Medical Officers, 63 native medical practitioners and seven Indian medical practitioners. There are also three European sanitary inspectors, one Indian sanitary inspector and seven Indian sanitary assistants.

A system of hospitals exists throughout the Colony. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva is a well-equipped building with 142 beds, 31 cots, and eight beds in lazarette, an operating theatre and an X-ray plant, and is open to all classes of the community. During the year 2,679 persons were admitted, the daily average number of in-patients being 106·71. The Colonial War Memorial Hospital is also a Nurses' Training School. The New Zealand Registration Board accepts the prescribed course of training and grants its nursing diploma to candidates who pass the necessary examination. There are 13 European probationer nurses and in addition, 21 native nurses in training. The third and fourth year medical students from the Central Medical School complete their medical studies here, by acting as dressers and clinical clerks in the various wards, and receive clinical demonstrations before qualifying. The Medical Superintendent is Director of Clinical Studies.

General hospitals are also established at Lautoka, Labasa, Levuka, Nadi and Penang.

The Methodist Mission conducts a hospital for Indian women at Mba, and there are cottage hospitals for Europeans at Mba and Taveuni. These hospitals are subsidized by Government, as is also a Maternity Home in Suva. In addition there are 16 provincial hospitals and some 29 dispensaries in the Colony, where Fijians and Indians may obtain treatment.

The new pathological laboratories were erected two years ago with the assistance of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The building is of ferro-concrete and is well equipped for both routine and research work in pathology, bacteriology, parasitology and biochemistry. The pathologist is assisted by a qualified European technician and a staff of natives, one of whom is a Native medical practitioner. Veterinary pathology and bacteriology is undertaken as required on behalf of the Agricultural Department, and the pathologist is Police Surgeon for Suva. The majority of the vaccines used by the Medical Department are now manufactured in the laboratory. During the year 5,731 examinations were carried out in the laboratories. A donation of £500 was made towards the improvement of the teaching facilities for students in pathology and allied subjects by the Director of Messrs. Boots Pure Drug Company, Limited.

The former Fiji Medical School (1888 to 1928) at which only a limited number of Fijian students were trained in the vernacular was, in 1928, replaced by the Central Medical School, which receives native medical students from the various island groups in the South Pacific. The Rockefeller Foundation granted a sum of £8,000 to assist in the cost of erection and equipment of the school buildings.

The teaching staff consists of a whole-time Principal with 14 honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students, who are all boarders, include 17 Fijians, two Indians, six Samoans, four Tongans, five Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, three Solomon Islanders, three Cook Islanders and one each from the New Hebrides and Nauru Island.

The school is under the control of the Central Medical School Advisory Board, with the Director of Medical Services as Chairman, and the Principal of the school is Secretary to the Advisory Board. The syllabus of instruction now covers a period of four years and is divided into three sections: the first section of six months with instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy and physiology; and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, midwifery, etc. The students are known as junior students in the first two sections, and as senior students in the third and final section.

After graduating, the medical students receive diplomas as native medical practitioners, and they are then given appointments in country districts, or are attached to a hospital under a European medical officer. A subordinate medical service in Fiji has thus been created consisting of 63 native medical practitioners and seven Indian medical practitioners. In addition, the Central Medical School has already turned out 32 similarly qualified native medical practitioners who are in actual practice in other island groups, including Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides and the British Solomon Islands.

The Child Welfare Scheme, which is under the control of a Central Executive Committee, has been firmly established in the Colony since 1927. In practically every village Child Welfare Committees have been established, each of which is responsible to the child welfare worker in charge of the district. There are five trained European nurses engaged in the work in various parts of Fiji, assisted by 15 specially trained native nurses. District Medical Officers and native medical practitioners make inspections and co-operate with the child welfare workers. Native medical practitioners are given special training in child welfare in order to be able to render this service to their own people in the country districts.

Health and Sanitation.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery was prevalent during the first quarter of the year, with a satisfactory decrease throughout the remainder of the year, excepting an epidemic in Savusavu in the middle of the year. During the first and second quarters, 832 and 274 cases respectively were notified, and in the third and fourth quarters 67 and 40 respectively. The cases were chiefly of the Shiga variety. A total of 1,237, including 24 amoebic cases, were notified for the year, the general mortality rate being 5·4 per cent.

Epidemic Dropsy.—12 cases were notified as occurring during 1937. Two patients from Suva and 10 from Ba—all affected were Indians.

Typhoid.—216 cases were reported for the Colony as compared with 108 in 1936: these included 14 cases for the Suva area.

Leprosy.—On the island of Makogai there is a modern leper hospital, with a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent, and 15 European and 10 Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. Cases of leprosy reported in the Colony, irrespective of race, are compulsorily segregated in this hospital, and lepers are also received from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook and Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The cost of the institution is borne by the various participating Administrations proportionately to the number of their patients. The hospital proper is divided into two compounds, one of which is reserved for female patients, while in the other are hospital wards for male patients who are acutely sick or unable to look after themselves. There are also five different villages for patients of the various races whom it is unnecessary to detain in hospital. These villages are visited daily by nursing sisters.

Admissions during 1937	80
Conditional discharges	31
Deaths	27
Number of patients at the end of 1937 ...	577

Miscellaneous.

Drinking Water.—Suva town and a portion of its rural area has a piped supply, whose intake is in the hills with no human habitation in the vicinity. It is tested at regular intervals. In other parts the usual sources of rural supplies are tapped.

Food control and dairies.—28 dairies were registered during the year within the rural district of Suva. Detailed surveys were made of all dairy premises in the sanitary district.

Milk.—During the year 102 samples of raw milk were purchased under the Pure Foods Ordinance; ten summonses for selling adulterated milk resulted in convictions with fines.

Slaughter-houses.—In the Suva district there are two registered slaughter-houses. There were no legal proceedings in connexion with slaughter-houses.

Tuberculin testing.—During the year 894 tests were carried out on cattle in the registered dairy herds of Suva. There were 14 positive reactions, a percentage of 1·54.

Throughout the Colony 2,535 cattle were tested, with 303 positive reactions, a percentage of 11·95.

Sanitation Campaign.

The Soil Sanitation Campaign, for the installation of latrines fitted with cement tops, was continued during the year. The work has been carried out, chiefly amongst the native towns in the province of Tailevu and Naitasiri, Colo East and Colo North. The total number of this type of latrine installed in the Colony up to the 31st December, 1937, is 19,542.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva the Town Board is the Local Authority, the Medical Officer of Health being a member and Chairman of its Health Committee.

The sanitary duties are carried out under the supervision of the Board's Chief Sanitary Inspector, the control of infectious diseases being the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health as executive officer of the Central Board of Health.

Town-planning and Building Regulations.—The business part of the town of Suva is changing from a collection of temporary premises erected without much attention to future requirements. Permanent buildings in concrete are springing up at the more important sites calling for careful town-planning and adequate building regulations if expensive mistakes are to be avoided. The laying down of improved and wider roads has done much to improve the appearance of parts of the business area. The standard of buildings now being erected in the Suva rural district has greatly improved since the promulgation of the new Health Regulations.

The European settlements at Vatuwaqa and Lami are proving popular and their boundaries are extending.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The products of the Colony include sugar, copra, molasses, bananas, butter, ghee, cotton, fresh vegetables, canned pineapples, fresh pineapples, Mauritius beans, bêche-de-mer, coconuts, fresh fruits other than bananas and pineapples, gum, coconut oil, soap, hides, pearl shell, turtle shell, trochus shell, cattle, goats, rice, citrus fruits, tobacco, maize, kava (Piper methysticum) and gold bullion.

Sugar.

The production of sugar, the principal industry of the Colony, is conducted by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, which operates five mills, purchases all the cane produced and disposes of the sugar and by-products. The production of sugar cane is mainly in the hands of East Indians who farm small holdings under lease from and under the supervision of the company. The 1937 crop was not so great as in 1936 and this was due to less favourable weather conditions during the earlier period of growth.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has continued its investigation and development of improved agricultural and manufacturing methods throughout the year. Amongst these investigations should be mentioned the breeding and selection of improved varieties of disease resistant cane and the suitability for different soil and climatic conditions of the various districts.

With the exception of the small quantity of sugar consumed locally, the crop is exported. The principal countries of consignment are the United Kingdom and Canada. Since there is no refinery in the Colony, requirements of refined sugar are imported from New Zealand.

For the crop year ending on the 30th June, 1937, the area crop was 49,316 acres which produced 1,097,892 tons of cane for crushing. Exports of sugar amounted to 143,542 tons. A portion of the molasses produced is used locally for stock feed and the balance (19,673 tons in 1937) exported to Australia (16,019 tons) and New Zealand (3,654 tons).

The company has decided to proceed with the conduct of a practical training farm for Fijian youths.

During 1937 an international agreement, which has for its object the regulation of production in relation to consumption, was arrived at between most of the exporting countries.

Copra.

Two-thirds of the production of copra is in the hands of Fijians who utilize their hereditary lands, large areas of which are self-sown. In the main the methods of drying are primitive, with the result that poor quality copra is produced. In an endeavour to improve the grade the Government has encouraged the erection of a small cheap type of hot air drier and considerable progress in this direction has been made during the past two years.

The larger European-owned estates have suffered severely from the fall in value of copra and from the difficulty in securing adequate supplies of labour.

The Fijians dispose of the bulk of their production in small quantities to country stores near to their villages and in some cases whole coconuts and " green " copra are bartered for goods. European planters sell their copra to the principal merchandize houses of the Group, excepting for a number who dispose of their crops abroad through a co-operative organization. Copra is disposed of to the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and Australia. Exports for the year amounted to 30,001 tons.

Bananas.

The Dominion of New Zealand is the principal market for bananas, but exports to the Dominion are restricted by a quota. The Australian market took large supplies until 1921 when the tariff charge on bananas was increased to 8s. 4d. per cental. This rendered profitable trading impossible and it was not until the Ottawa Agreement came into operation that exports to Australia were again seriously attempted. Under the terms of that agreement, entry is permitted to 40,000 centals of bananas per annum at a tariff charge of 2s. 6d. per cental. Experience has shown, however, that values obtainable in the Commonwealth are not high enough to render trading profitable excepting during the winter months when Australian-produced fruit is in short supply. Unfortunately there is a falling off in local production during that period and, normally, the whole of the fruit is required for the more profitable New Zealand market.

The shipment of bunches to the Vancouver market was continued during the year with satisfactory financial results until the end of November when an increase in the freight rate from

2s. 6d. to 4s. per bunch became operative and rendered trading difficult.

Exports of bananas were as follows:—

	Cases.	Bunches.
New Zealand	141,336	50
Australia	2,048	24
Canada	—	21,996
Total ...	143,384	22,070

Fijians are the principal producers of bananas, some 95 per cent. of the exports being of native origin. The fruit is purchased by European exporters at selected packing stations in the growing areas at prices which are fixed from time to time by a Board representative of the Government and the exporters. The prices fixed are based on realizations in New Zealand which, for the year under review, amounted to an average of 19s. 2d. per case compared with 16s. 1d. per case for 1936. The average price paid to the growers increased from 3s. 4d. per case in 1936 to 4s. 5d. per case for 1937. The exporters pay for the fruit in cash at the time of delivery and are required to provide cases and transport to Suva and to meet all charges connected with export and sale.

Citrus.

New Zealand is the only market in which citrus fruits are sold and, owing to an embargo being imposed on the admission of Australian fruit, the Dominion provided a profitable market for the season. Practically the whole of the export crop is produced on self-sown trees in and about Fijian towns with the result that there are wide variations in the quality of the oranges. Mandarins, which form the bulk of the exports, are of excellent quality.

The export of citrus fruits is handled by a voluntary association of the shippers in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture which grades and packs the fruit. The shippers purchase the fruit from the growers at the point of production at prices approved by the Government and arrange transport to the packing shed at Suva.

Exports during 1937 amounted to 8,324 cases made up of 5,835 cases of mandarins, 2,400 cases of oranges and 89 cases of grapefruit.

Rice.

Accurate information as to the quantity of padi produced in the Colony is not available but it is estimated that 10,000 tons are produced in normal seasons. East Indians produce the bulk of the crop from small holdings worked by themselves and their families. Fijians, principally those who have been in employment on coconut plantations and at the gold mines where a rice ration is issued, are becoming larger consumers of rice. Many of them now cultivate small areas. The crop is hulled in small mills which, in recent years, have been established in the vicinity of the growing areas. A limited quantity is hand-milled by the growers for their own use and for sale to their neighbours.

There is a good demand for rice and room for a considerable expansion of the industry as ample suitable lands are available. Imports of rice for the year amounted to 2,980 tons. The industry enjoyed a variable tariff protection directed towards maintaining the landed cost of imported rice at £15 per ton.

Tobacco.

A considerable amount of tobacco is grown in small areas, principally by Indians, but there is, as yet, practically no production on commercial lines. Experiments which have been conducted by the Department of Agriculture indicate that with proper cultural, harvesting and curing methods, a good tobacco of cigar filler type can be grown in the Colony. Cigars and cheroots made at an experimental station have found a ready sale. The Department of Agriculture continued the purchase of leaf for manufacture of " stick " tobacco for sale to labourers, but the small factory in which operations were conducted was, unfortunately, destroyed by fire during the year.

Pineapples.

Owing to strong Australian competition in the New Zealand market, the export of fresh pineapples was negligible, only 2,300 cases being exported during the year. The fruit was produced mostly by Indian small-holders who sell to local buyers for export at an average price of 3s. per case. A small European-owned cannery venture at Ovalau operated during the year and exported pineapple juice and " crush ". The demand was in excess of the supplies available.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, continued planting operations at their area on the west coast of Viti Levu and it is anticipated that a small pack will be canned during 1938.

Cotton.

Although vigorous efforts were made to stimulate the growing of cotton, the results were far from satisfactory due, principally, to the vagaries of the weather. The varieties grown are Sea Island and a locally bred back-cross. Cultivation is principally in the hands of Indians. The crops are purchased by the Government which operates two small ginneries in the dry zone of Viti Levu. The total production of the Sea Island variety was

19,175 lbs. of seed cotton produced from 116 acres, whilst the back-cross crop amounted to 69,770 lbs. of seed cotton harvested from 140 acres.

Breeding and selection work and spacing trials were continued at the Sigatoka Experimental Station, special attention being given to the maintenance of the purity and grade of the Sea Island and the improvement and stabilization of the lint characters of the back-cross, together with an increase in the yielding capacity.

Subsidiary Crops for Export.

New Zealand is at present the only market for subsidiary crops, with the exception of whole coconuts, Mauritius bean (*Stizolobium atterimum*) and tomatoes which find markets elsewhere. The Dominion demand is small and it is unlikely that the export trade in the products referred to below will be capable of considerable expansion unless additional markets can be found.

Kumalas (Sweet Potatoes).—Kumalas for export are grown principally by Chinese market gardeners situated close to Suva, but Fijians further afield are becoming interested in this crop. Close examinations of exports are necessary as kumalas are attacked by a weevil, the presence of which in consignments is followed by condemnation by the Plant Health Authorities in New Zealand. A total of 12,554 sacks was disposed of in the New Zealand market in 1937. Profitable export trading is restricted to the months of August-December, when the market is bare of home-grown kumalas. Large quantities are produced by Fijians and others for local consumption.

Pawpaws, granadillas and taro.—These are comparatively new items in the list of minor products exported. Pawpaws and granadillas of the finest quality are produced without difficulty in the Colony and the local consumption, especially of the former, assumes considerable proportions. The development of a profitable export trade in these products is attended with difficulty as the demand is as yet small, and in the case of the former, heavy losses in the material occur during transport to the market. Granadillas suffer from the attacks of fruit flies and as isolation in fly-proof chambers after cutting is impracticable owing to the rapid deterioration of the fruit, all granadillas intended for export are required to be bagged on the vines for at least two weeks prior to export. Taro (*Colocasia antiquorum*) is one of the staple foods of the Fijians, practically every householder cultivating a small area for the use of himself and his family. Small shipments were made to New Zealand and, while remunerative prices were received for small consignments, experience showed that values receded considerably in an over-supplied market. A stronger demand should become apparent when the vegetable has become better known.

Cucumbers, Melons and Pumpkins.—These products are produced in excellent quality and find profitable markets in New Zealand during the seasons. Chinese market gardeners situated near Suva are the principal producers.

Tomatoes.—A comparatively large trade was formerly done with Australia in tomatoes, but declining prices in recent years have reduced the exports considerably—over 11,000 boxes of tomatoes were exported in 1931.

Coconuts.—Small exports to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada were made during the year, but the margin of profit is too small to prove attractive.

Mauritius Beans.—This legume is largely used as a cover crop in the sugar industry and, formerly, substantial exports of seed were made to Queensland for the same purpose. The use of other leguminous plants and a diversion of the trade from Fiji to New Guinea has curtailed export in recent years. All shipments are subjected to germination tests prior to export, a 60 per cent. germination being required to comply with the Fruit Export Ordinance. Exports during the year amounted to 904 cwts.

Products Consumed Locally.

Maize.—Formerly the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, purchased large quantities of maize under contracts with Indian growers but, with the development of tenant farming in the sugar industry, the demand for maize diminished considerably and growers now experience difficulty in disposing of their crops during the season. There is still, however, a considerable demand for maize, but the lack of organization, inevitable under existing conditions under which a large number of Indian and Fijian small producers market their crops independently, has tended to restrict demands owing to the uncertainty of supplies and the wide fluctuations in price during portions of the year. An uncertain market for maize exists in New Zealand. The steps taken by the Government to provide an organization for storage and sale of this and other products at stable prices is referred to in the section of the report dealing with marketing.

The use of maize flour in the place of sharps is also receiving attention.

Potatoes.—Excellent quality potatoes are produced in a number of areas, especially on the Sigatoka River, but the necessity for procuring fresh seed from abroad annually is an item of considerable expense which tends to limit production. That there is room for considerable expansion of production is evidenced by the fact that 1,465 tons of potatoes valued at £7,614 were imported during the year. Potatoes are produced by Fijians, Indians and Chinese in small quantities.

Kava (*Piper Methysticum*).—The ground root of this plant mixed with water is used as a beverage throughout the South Seas and large quantities are produced for consumption within the Colony. During recent years Indians and Chinese have planted large areas, but attacks of a disease have caused severe losses in the areas near to Suva. Formerly, the use of this beverage was restricted to native chiefs but it is now consumed by practically all the Fijians and a large number of Indians.

Indian foodstuffs.—Rice, beans, peas, lentils, maize, bringall, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, tumeric, groundnuts, mango, guava, potatoes, eschalots, as well as many other foodstuffs of lesser importance, are all grown in Fiji by the Indians. Large quantities are, however, imported, more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage the Indians to grow and prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian population is tending to include more and more of the Fijians' foodstuffs in their diet; similarly the Fijian is developing a taste for Indian curry, foods and rice.

European vegetables, e.g., cabbage, peas, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins and marrow will, with care, grow well in all parts of the Colony. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Marketing.

The cultivators of sugar-cane have a permanent market for their crops at a fixed price provided that their areas are approved by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, as suitable for cane cultivation and for economical transportation to a mill.

Copra has not such a stable value as sugar-cane but, provided that quality is satisfactory, the producer is able to dispose of his production within his district. Merchants conduct branch stores throughout the Group at which the purchase of copra forms a regular part of the business and there are a number of small Chinese traders throughout the copra districts who purchase or exchange for goods the production of the plantations in the form of dried copra, green copra or whole coconuts.

The cultivation of bananas is restricted to certain districts in which an organization, under Government supervision, arranges for the purchase of the fruit at prescribed centres.

Cotton is purchased by the Government at fixed prices at centres near the ginneries.

Hitherto, there has been no organization for the marketing of minor products for which there is a demand locally and abroad with the result that the production of many crops suitable for small holders has been neglected.

The merchant houses and small storekeepers who provide the means of disposal for copra are not interested to any extent in products such as native vegetables, maize, Mauritius beans, tobacco, kumalas, and padi with the consequence that those Fijians and Indians who are remote from centres of European settlement experience considerable difficulty in disposing of such products. Consequently profits are low, production is restricted and the local demand is reduced by the high prices rendered necessary by inordinately high costs of disposal. Exports are affected also in that the products cannot be sold in competition with those of other tropical countries. Such a form of marketing has the added disadvantage of irregularity of supply which tends further to reduce local consumption. The provision of an organization for the marketing of small quantities of produce from widely scattered areas is a matter of some difficulty.

There are many minor products which can be produced in abundance in the Colony and for which a considerable local sale should be possible provided that prices are reasonable and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide some form of organization which will, in time, provide the means of bridging the gap between the producer and consumer.

Livestock.

Livestock form a very essential adjunct to the life of the farming community. Horses or oxen perform practically all the draught work connected with the cultivation of crops in the Colony. The majority of Indian cultivators keep sufficient milking cows to supply the needs of the family in respect of milk and ghee. Sufficient fat cattle and goats are raised in the pastoral areas to supply local consumption of beef and goat flesh. The pork market is also supplied from local supplies. Most of the mutton supplies have to be imported, as sheep breeding has not developed to any extent in the Colony.

On coconut plantations, cattle and goats assist in keeping weeds and undergrowth down, as well as forming the principal meat supply for the labour. The estimated stock population of the Colony is 68,000 cattle, 19,000 goats and 14,000 horses.

Dairying.

The dairy industry enjoyed another prosperous year during 1937, the factory production of butter reaching record figures.

The following figures indicate production of the two factories during the past five years:—

Year.	*Butter manufactured.* lb.	*Sold locally.* lb.	*Exported.* lb.	*Converted into ghee.* lb.
1933	544,375	388,631	205,744	17,920
1934	560,649	268,383	146,384	145,882
1935	608,201	347,513	27,736	232,952
1936	533,280	362,791	—	190,489
1937	637,259	448,130	—	189,129

In addition to factory production, a considerable quantity of ghee is made and disposed of by private dairies and small farmers, but there are no means of ascertaining the actual quantities made. Butter is also made and disposed of privately. Judging by the increasing number of dairies producing ghee, it must be assumed that the private production of ghee is increasing.

The milk supply of Suva and many townships is obtained from registered dairies. Such dairies must now obtain their milk from tuberculin tested cows. The herds supplying the town of Suva have been regularly tested for a number of years, but 1937 marked the first test amongst the majority of registered dairies in other centres. One company in the Suva district supplies pasteurized milk in sterilized bottles. For a tropical country, the milk supply for human consumption can be considered quite good.

Poultry.

The supply of eggs and table birds is obtained locally although small importations of both are occasionally made. An increasing amount of Suva's requirements is being obtained from country districts. Prices of eggs and table birds are high for an agricultural colony, eggs ranging in price from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per dozen, fowls from 3s. 6d. to 6s. each and ducks a little dearer still.

The Department of Agriculture has established a flock of Australorp fowls principally with a view to popularizing the keeping of good birds by the small farmer. Settings of eggs and young birds are supplied at a reasonable figure to suitable men interested in poultry breeding.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This phase of agricultural education is controlled by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which consists of the heads of the Agricultural, Education, Native and Indian Departments and a representative of the Methodist Mission. For the purpose of this description it may be divided into two main spheres, namely, primary instruction and adult instruction.

PRIMARY INSTRUCTION.

The work under this heading may be briefly described as the operation of the agricultural bias which it is intended to give to certain portions of the curriculum of existing schools. This training is more or less confined to nature study lessons and to work in school gardens. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools, but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and the Teachers' Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and at the Government Experimental Stations the training of students is still more advanced. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as native field instructors of the Agricultural Department for work mainly amongst the adult population.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has decided to proceed with a proposal to establish a training centre for the instruction of Fijian youths in cane cultivation.

ADULT INSTRUCTION.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian agricultural community is far ahead of the Fijian in modern agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugar-cane and since the adoption of the tenant farmer system by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, the individual comes under the direct supervision of the trained officers of that Company. In these circumstances Government's restricted financial resources have been directed towards the progress of the more backward Fijian. Efforts are in operation to settle Fijians on the land in small communal settlements in selected areas where they can be supervised and assisted with the marketing of their produce. While considerable progress has been made in this direction the difficulties are great owing to the roving disposition of the Fijian, his ease of livelihood and the smallness of the population.

Forestry.

Largely owing to the inefficient methods practised by Fijian and Indian workers, the Colony continues to depend to a considerable extent on imported Canadian softwoods and Australian hardwoods. Imports during the year were 6,741,898 superficial feet (an amount which has only twice been exceeded in the past) with a value of £47,117.

Only one sawmill is concerned with both the extraction and sawing of timber: the remainder are dependent for supplies on purchases of logs from casual Fijian and Indian cutters who, by reason of their lack of equipment, confine their operations largely to areas within easy reach of roads or navigable rivers. The amount of the timber so cut is not recorded and is not subject to the payment of royalties.

In the coastal districts firewood is obtained from the mangrove forests. A system of licensing is in force under the control of a European officer in an attempt to avoid the possibility of a fuel shortage by insisting on more efficient methods of utilization than have been employed in the past. Revenue amounted to £1,050, representing approximately 20,000 tons (stacked) of firewood.

Copal, a gum obtained from the Kauri tree (*Agathis vitiensis*) and used in the preparation of varnishes, has been exported in increasingly larger quantities in recent years. The methods employed by the collectors, which are crude and inimical to the health of the trees, will, it is hoped, be subject to control in the near future. 7,594 cwt. of gum were exported with a value of £9,568.

Comparative figures for previous years indicate the development of the trade:—

Period.	*Exports.*	*Value.* £
1918–22	1,925	2,633
1922–27	4,530	7,425
1928–32	10,371	12,980
1933–37	22,178	26,266

Towards the close of the year under review arrangements were in hand for the formation of a small forest department to conserve the Colony's forest resources.

Fisheries.

Although fish abound in the waters of the Colony, there is no organized fishing industry. The Fijians are large consumers of fish which are captured in fish fences, constructed of saplings and reeds, and in nets. They consume also large quantities of crabs and prawns. The markets of the large centres of settlement are served by Fijian and Japanese fishermen, but generally fish is difficult to obtain.

Both the green and the hawksbill turtle occur in the waters of the Group and there is a ready demand for turtleshell both for local manufacture into novelties and for export.

Trochus shell (*Trochus niloticus*) is found on the reefs of the Colony, but intensive fishing and the collection of immature shell has depleted the supplies considerably. Exports of shell for the year amounted to 144 tons. The collection of trochus is almost entirely in the hands of Fijians.

Manufacturing.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, operates five mills in the Colony, the exports of raw sugar for the year amounting to 129,692 tons valued at £1,388,681.

There are two dairy factories manufacturing butter and ghee (clarified butter fat). The production of each class of manufacture is recorded in Chapter VI of this report under the heading of " Dairying ".

The Pacific Biscuit Factory, a subsidiary of an Australian firm fulfils the entire demand for biscuits, excepting fancy lines which are imported. A small export trade has been developed with Tonga and Samoa, to which territories 180,332 lb. were exported during the year. Information as to the quantities and values of biscuits disposed of locally are not available.

The extraction of coconut oil and the manufacture of washing soap is carried out by an establishment at Suva which meets practically the whole of the local demand for the type of soap referred to. Sand soap is also produced. Information regarding the quantity and value of soap manufactured is not available.

Mining.

Nineteen new prospecting licences aggregating 7,118 acres were issued during the year, six being in the Tavua Mining area, four in the Yanawai Mining area and nine elsewhere in the Colony. Thirty-one licences lapsed or were surrendered or cancelled during the year.

On the Yanawai field, mining operations were continued by Mount Kasi Mines, Limited, and 29,668 long tons were milled for a recovery of 7,496·53 fine ounces of gold and 610·64 fine ounces of silver, being an average recovery of 5·05 dwts. of gold and 0·41 dwts. of silver per ton treated. Additions to various sections of the mill and subsidiary buildings were carried out during the year and further new living quarters erected. The average number of men employed during the year was 298, as follows: Europeans, 17; half-castes, 43; Fijians, 195; Indians, 34; and nine of other nationalities.

On the Tavua field, the Emperor Gold Mining Company, Limited, treated 30,191 tons of ore for a recovery of 12,497·96 fine ounces of gold and 777·58 fine ounces of silver, being an average recovery of 8·28 dwts. of gold and 0·51 dwts. of silver per ton treated. The erection of a new mill with an estimated capacity of 10,000 tons of ore per month was proceeded with, but owing to delays in arrival of equipment it did not reach the production stage until the close of the year. Residential quarters and other buildings, including a school for the children of the company's European and half-caste employees, were erected during the year. The average number of persons employed on this mine during 1937 was 754, comprising 50 Europeans, 93 half-castes, 600 Fijians, seven Indians and four of other nationalities.

The Loloma (Fiji) Gold Mines, N.L., continued throughout the year its underground development and plant constructional programme: the latter was held up owing to delay in arrival of equipment. The new mill, however, was completed and operations began towards the end of September. The plant was nearing its estimated capacity at the close of the year. Production from the Loloma mine was 4,873·88 fine ounces of gold and 2,071·07 fine ounces of silver from the milling of 4,560 tons of ore, viz., an average recovery of 21·37 dwts. of gold and 9·09 dwts. of silver per ton treated. Employment figures averaged 445 during the year, comprising Europeans, 34; half-castes, 31; and Fijians 380.

A private mining concern, operating on "Costello's 30-acre Block", treated 342 tons of ore and recovered 48·67 fine ounces of gold and 3·21 fine ounces of silver by puddling and straking, being an average recovery of 2·84 dwts. of gold per ton treated. Koroere Gold, N.L., and Fiji Mines Development, Limited, have continued steady development work on their properties on the Tavua field and this work is proceeding at depth. On the Vuda field, which was proclaimed a mining area during 1937, an application for a mining lease was received from the Natalau Gold Prospecting Syndicate and was under consideration at the close of the year.

The estimated number of persons of all races employed in mining and prospecting at the end of 1937 was 1,713.

The following statement shows the production from the Yanawai and Tavua Mining Areas for 1937, in tabulated form, and also shows the position of the gold mining industry as compared with previous years.

Comparative Gold Production Figures.

Year.	*Yanawai fine ozs.*	*Tavua fine ozs.*	*Total fine ozs.*
1932	311·1	—	311·1
1933	1,844·2	—	1,844·2
1934	796·7	134·7	931·4
1935	1,786·9	4,940·8	6,727·7
1936	4,024·2	12,930·9	16,955·1
1937	7,496·5	17,420·5	24,917·0
Totals produced to date	16,259·6	35,426·9	51,686·5

The Mining Ordinance, 1937, which repealed and replaced the 1934 Ordinance, was passed by the Legislative Council on the 6th October, 1937, and came into force on the 29th October, 1937.

On the 30th June, 1937, the Governor-in-Council enacted the Mining (Amendment) Regulations, 1937, which deals with the "Installation and Use of Electricity in Mines."

Customs duty on all imported mining machinery and mining requisites was reduced at the October Session of the Legislative Council by 50 per cent. in the case of the British rate and 25 per cent. in the case of the general rate for the period 1st June, 1937, to the 31st May, 1940.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Fiji is primarily an agricultural Colony, and, although a large proportion of food necessary for the native population is grown locally, the continued development of the mining industry in recent years and consequent temporary divergence of natives from villages to the mines, has caused an increase in the quantities of foodstuffs imported. The average price of copra was higher during 1937 than for some years and the increased spending power of the grower has contributed also to larger importations of foodstuffs.

In manufactured articles, apart from importations necessary for the sugar and mining industries, the principal item is cotton and rayon piece goods. Imports of these increased from £89,012 in 1936 to £129,622 in 1937, but there are indications that merchants are overstocked and it is doubtful whether this figure will be attained in 1938.

Sugar maintains its position as the principal export and represents 62·73 per cent. of the export trade and 65·44 per cent. of domestic exports. The quantity exported in 1937 was 129,693 tons as compared with 140,864 in 1936. Sugar production is controlled under the International Agreement regarding the Regulation of Production and Marketing of sugar and future exportations will depend on the export quota allocated to the Colony under that agreement.

During the year mining companies improved their installations and production increased. The full effect of this will be reflected in 1938.

The following statement shows the summary of the value of imports into Fiji by classes during the years 1933 to 1937.

Note.—In all tables the values given are in Fiji currency (£F.111 = £S.100).

Summary Statement of the Value of Imports into Fiji by Classes during the years 1933 to 1937.

Year.	*Class I. Food, drink and tobacco.*	*Class II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.*	*Class III. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.*	*Class IV. Miscellaneous and unclassified.*	*Total merchandise.*	*Bullion and Specie.*	*Total imports (including Bullion and Specie).*
	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.
1933	246,868	37,539	723,606	22,653	1,030,666	38,600	1,069,266
1934	222,308	40,018	698,008	24,675	985,009	10,195	995,204
1935	284,500	46,393	887,154	25,888	1,243,935	13,352	1,257,287
1936	395,073	59,825	1,009,592	30,893	1,495,383	6,471	1,501,854
1937	406,990	74,135	1,231,072	36,874	1,749,071	11,673	1,760,744

The following table gives the values of Imports, Exports and total trade for the past five years:—

Year.	*Imports.* £F.	*Domestic Exports.* * £F.	*Re-Exports.* £F.	*Total Trade.* £F.
1933	1,069,266	1,532,161	193,368	2,794,795
1934	995,204	1,341,678	114,777	2,451,659
1935	1,257,287	1,735,005	85,391	3,077,683
1936	1,501,854	2,023,496	111,931	3,637,281
1937	1,760,744	2,121,920	91,737	3,974,401

The following table gives the percentage of the total Imports from the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the past five years:—

Total Imports.	*1933.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1937.* *Per cent.*
British Empire ...	86·82	79·45	81·78	83·38	82·41
Foreign Countries	11·16	18·16	16·26	14·68	15·57
(Balance imported through Parcels Post.)					
Countries of Origin.					
United Kingdom...	34·24	36·45	39·45	35·07	34·24
Australia	35·53	26·24	24·45	28·03	29·22
Canada	3·57	4·55	4·52	4·45	5·97
India	3·67	6·39	6·90	6·13	5·21
New Zealand ...	8·25	3·45	3·62	3·97	3·23
Japan	3·67	2·99	3·15	3·34	3·58
United States ...	3·97	8·67	7·58	6·06	6·86

The following table gives the percentage of domestic products exported to the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the past five years:—

Domestic Exports.	*1933.* *Per cent.*	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1937.* *Per cent.*
British Empire ...	90·51	92·89	88·78	82·82	84·85
Foreign Countries	9·49	7·11	11·22	17·18	15·15
Countries of Destination.					
United Kingdom...	48·07	47·79	50·65	39·27	39·74
Canada	32·75	35·05	26·36	27·02	28·02
Australia	3·16	3·37	6·51	10·90	11·48
New Zealand ...	5·94	6·14	4·80	5·19	5·10
Europe	7·47*	5·03*	5·28*	9·02*	5·09*
United States ...	1·39	·80	2·34	4·39	6·88

* Consists principally of copra exported to optional European ports, ultimate destination unknown.

The following table gives the quantity and value of principal imports for the past two years:—

	1936.			*1937.*	
	Quantity.		*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£F.		£F.
Drapery	—	—	164,799	—	228,845
Flour and Sharps ...	Tons	10,387	89,786	9,337	101,035
Hardware	—	—	67,902	—	91,426
Iron and Steel... ...	Tons	2,535	36,442	3,023	49,505
Machinery	—	—	177,783	—	209,343
Motor Vehicles ...	No.	264	37,231	441	61,570
Oils	Gal.	3,574,490	80,349	3,694,538	95,095
Timber	S. ft.	6,162,710	41,900	6,741,898	48,117

Principal supplying Countries of above Commodities.

Country.		*1936.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*	*1937.* *Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£F.		£F.
Drapery.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	102,264	—	133,264
Hong Kong ...	...	—	8,639	—	15,309
India	...	—	5,043	—	12,628
Japan	...	—	39,030	—	52,374
Flour and Sharps.					
Australia	tons	10,387	89,782	9,336	101,025
Hardware.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	34,876	—	48,595
Australia	...	—	19,419	—	25,396
United States ...	...	—	5,418	—	6,865
Iron and Steel.					
United Kingdom ...	tons	2,097	31,578	1,845	33,115
Australia	tons	246	3,572	915	13,848
Machinery.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	98,299	—	73,947
Australia	...	—	60,245	—	117,594
United States ...	...	—	14,137	—	14,401
Motor Vehicles.					
United Kingdom ...	No.	89	12,075	150	19,462
Canada	No.	145	19,972	233	32,412
United States ...	...	30	5,184	58	9,696
Oils.					
United Kingdom ...	Gals.	67,493	7,028	62,407	7,408
Netherlands East Indies	Gals.	2,215,255	34,413	1,995,147	33,353
United States ...	Gals.	1,214,539	27,213	1,546,083	40,101
Timber.					
Australia	S. ft.	990,898	13,760	983,015	13,943
Canada	...	5,103,699	26,266	5,716,662	32,638

The following table shows the quantity and value of principal domestic exports for the past two years:—

		1936.		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.* £F.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £F.
Sugar	tons	140,864	1,331,701	129,693	1,388,681
Copra	tons	34,582	406,393	30,001	407,354
Gold	ozs.	17,107	131,684	21,407	166,115
Bananas ...	bunches	320,143	84,548	326,777	80,071
		Principal Countries Supplied.			
Sugar.					
United Kingdom	tons	82,636	779,385	71,456	786,617
Canada	tons	57,123	540,978	57,002	587,979
Copra.					
United Kingdom	tons	760	9,020	3,783	51,731
Australia ...	tons	5,073	63,332	4,175	53,454
Europe	tons	15,891*	180,084*	8,027*	104,003*
United States ...	tons	7,322	88,129	9,976	139,714
Gold.					
Australia ...	ozs.	17,107	131,684	21,407	166,115
Bananas.					
New Zealand	bunches	298,221	79,031	300,659	73,658

* Exported to optional European ports, ultimate destination unknown.

The following tables give details of import and export of coin and notes, the values given being face values. The importations of coin from the United Kingdom represent almost wholly Fiji coin minted in the United Kingdom and which came into use in 1934; the exports consist principally of coin being returned in consequence of the introduction of a Fiji coinage.

The notes imported are Fiji currency notes printed in the United Kingdom for circulation in Fiji. They are not taken into account in the trade returns and no export of notes during the past five years has been reported.

COIN.

	Imports.			*Exports.*	
	Country of Origin.	*Value.* £		*Exported to.*	*Value.* £
			1933.		
Silver	United Kingdom	34,000	Silver	Australia ...	106
	New Zealand ...	400		Ships' Stores ...	125
	Solomon Islands	2,000	Gold	United Kingdom	111,540
Nickel	United Kingdom	2,200			
			1934.		
Silver	United Kingdom	10,000	Silver	United Kingdom	31,680
	Australia ...	7		Australia ...	5,060
				Ships' Stores ...	700
			1935.		
Silver	United Kingdom	18,000	Silver	United Kingdom	16,360
				Australia ...	1,570
				New Zealand ...	1,291
				Tonga	500

1936.

	Imports. *Country of Origin.*	*Value.* £		*Exports.* *Exported to.*	*Value.* £
Silver	United Kingdom	10,000	Silver	United Kingdom	46,645
Nickel	United Kingdom	1,000		Australia ...	1,294
				New Zealand ...	771
				Tonga	100

1937.

	Imports. *Country of Origin.*	*Value.* £		*Exports.* *Exported to.*	*Value.* £
Silver	United Kingdom	11,598	Silver	United Kingdom	15,584
				Australia ...	747
				New Zealand ...	285
				Tonga	1,119
				United States of America ...	9

IMPORTATION OF NOTES.

From.	*1933.* £	*1934.* £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £
United Kingdom...	35,030	514,965	60,000	85,000	30,000

Tourist Traffic.

Tourist traffic showed a general increase in 1937. There was a slight falling off in the number of tourists staying in Fiji for a week or longer, this being attributable in part to the attractions of the Coronation celebrations in England. To some extent this also affected the traffic later in the year, when some prospective visitors from Australia and New Zealand were unable to obtain return bookings, steamer accommodation being heavily booked by through passengers returning from the Coronation. Eleven vessels engaged upon special tourist cruises visited Suva during the year, bringing a total of 6,426 visitors —a record for the port as regards this class of traffic. It is estimated that 13,923 people passed through Suva on mail boats and other steamers (exclusive of special tourist ships) and 1,328 stayed a week or longer. The estimated figures for 1936 were 11,017 and 1,380 respectively. With the completion of Queen's Road, which now completes the road around the main island of Viti Levu, additional facilities for seeing the country have been given.

VIII.—LABOUR.

The following figures, taken from the April, 1936, Census Report, show the number of males between the ages of 18 and 60, which are the tax-paying and approximate labouring ages:—

		Total Male Population.
Fijians	24,057	49,869
Indians...	22,870	48,246
Persons of European and native descent ...	1,034	2,325
Europeans	1,568	2,263
Melanesians	571	1,116
Chinese...	1,186	1,476

The following are the approximate numbers of persons employed in the principal industries and trades:—

	Fijians.	*Indians.*	*Europeans and Others.*
Sugar-cane cultivation ...	600	13,500	85 Europeans.
Manufacture of sugar ...	130	800	180 Europeans.
Copra production	1,000	240	75 Europeans. 185 Persons of mixed descent. 150 Melanesians.
Gold mining...	1,344	56	126 Europeans. 172 Persons of mixed descent.
Market gardening	100	190	40 Melanesians. 250 Chinese.
Carpentry	300	150	30 Europeans. 190 Persons of mixed descent.
Road transport and road making	460	890	35 Europeans.
Water transport and wharf labour	380	90	55 Europeans. 40 Persons of mixed descent.
Wholesale and retail dealing	315	1,180	260 Europeans. 100 Persons of mixed descent. 470 Chinese.
Education	450	180	120 Europeans.
Domestic service	400	800	40 Persons of mixed descent.
Totals	5,479	18,076	966 Europeans. 190 Melanesians. 620 Chinese. 727 Persons of mixed descent.

As the Census of 1936 was taken in the month of April, the above figures do not indicate the true position as regards labour employed in sugar mills during the subsequent crushing season. The employment figures for the Gold Mining industry are based on actual reports received for 1937. Generally speaking the labour is unskilled and there is a shortage of skilled labour.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company engage a large number of Indians as mill labour for the crushing season, which commences usually in the month of June and ends in December. The following is the approximate number signed on for the 1937 crushing season:—

Nausori, Rewa...	176 Indians.
Penang, Ra	108 Indians. 11 Fijians.
Rarawai, Ba	329 Indians. 73 Fijians.
Lautoka	373 Indians. 16 Fijians.
Labasa	150 Indians. 3 Fijians.

Fijian Labour.

There has been no variation during the year in the conditions regarding employment of labourers under contract of service.

The local market price of copra varied between £15 and £7 during the year; these improved prices have created an increasing demand for plantation labour.

In 1937 employment on a large scale was found for Fijians in the following Public Works:—

The construction of the Suva-Sigatoka Road;

The Rewa River Bridge which was completed in June; and

The new Government Buildings, Suva, on which work was commenced in January.

Employment at the Tavua gold mines and the Mount Kasi Gold Mine is popular with Fijians, who are attracted by the conditions as regards wages, food, housing and other amenities at the mines.

All recruitment of labour is entirely voluntary. As each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit, and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands, he is capable of supporting himself and his family on the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians support themselves from the products of their lands and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence solely upon the wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and prevents the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the economic condition of the labour market. These conditions provide probably the most effective safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses and a certain proportion of these remain more or less permanently in the commercial centres. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat builders, marine engineers, and firemen is comparatively small. Their employment as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work, but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. Few, if any, of these men work under contract of service. The conditions of labour vary according to the size of the vessel and the particular work on which it is employed and employment is a matter of agreement between the owner and the crew.

Indian Labour.

During 1937 there has been no unemployment amongst Indians, and the continued prosperity in the main industries, combined with extensive building and other constructional work undertaken by Government and private firms and individuals, caused the supply of labour to be barely sufficient to meet the demand. Most of the work which gives employment to Indian labourers is seasonal, but wages are supplemented by the proceeds from land holdings. In the sugar areas the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has undertaken an extensive programme of replacing the old type of labour lines with up-to-date buildings provided with septic tanks, bathrooms, and kitchens and surrounded by well-kept lawns and gardens where possible.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages of Fijians.

The wages paid to Fijians in the mining industry vary from 14s. a week for unskilled labour to 25s. a week for skilled labour. Quarters and rations are provided.

Wharf labourers in Suva receive 3s. 6d. a day with three meals, and 6d. an hour overtime worked between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. Those brought to Suva from neighbouring districts are provided with quarters. Wharf labour gangs for Lautoka are usually sent from Suva. In the sugar centres the wages for Fijian mill labour are similar to those paid to the Indian labourers. The wages paid to Public Works Department labour are dealt with in a later paragraph.

Fijians engaged under contracts of service receive from £12 to £14 a year with rations, housing, medical attention and in some cases certain extras, such as clothing and tobacco.

Wages of Indians.

Wage conditions have not changed to any great extent during the past year and the various standards are as follows:—

> Unskilled labour, Suva; 2s. 6d. a day—country districts varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day. In the cane areas the labour is seasonal as far as mill workers and cane cutters are concerned. Mill labourers are paid on an average 1s. 11d. a day of 12 hours shift or 1s. 9d. a day of 9½ hours shift with a bonus of 7d. a day during the crushing season, and 1s. 9d. a day out of the crushing season with a bonus of 1s. 6d. a week. Bonuses are paid only for a full week's

work. These workers enjoy certain privileges in the purchase of provisions which are not available to outside labour. Cane cutters receive 1s. 8d. a day and 6d. a week bonus, also bonuses from growers that in many instances raise their earnings to as much as from 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day. Punjabi immigrants are reported to earn as much as 6s. a day in some instances during the cutting season.

Casual labour is in firm demand during the crushing season.

Public Works Department, Labour.

The total average number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed in the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, was 1,895. Of these, 1,037 were employed in the Suva District and 858 in various country districts.

Wages for unskilled labour ranged from 2s. 6d. a day to 5s. a day, the higher rate being paid in Suva District.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen; rates ranged from 5s. a day for juniors to 25s. a day according to the employment. Half-castes are employed as boat builders, house carpenters, blacksmiths and fitters, while occasionally native Fijians and Indians qualify for these positions.

The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen:—

Carpenters and joiners 3s. 6d. to 20s. a day, depending on the degree of skill.

Boatbuilders 8s. to 23s. 4d. a day. Some skilled Fijians employed in the boat sheds are paid 3s. 9d. to 8s. a day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc.) up to 25s. a day. Apprentices (usually Europeans and half-castes) 10s. rising to £2 10s. a week.

Painters (usually Indians) 3s. 6d. a day, leading hands up to 9s. a day, lorry and steam roller drivers (mostly Europeans) 10s. to 18s. a day. The average is £4 10s. a week.

Road Overseers (chiefly Europeans) £16 to £25 a month. Road gang sirdars (Indians) £4 10s. to £10 a month. Average £7 10s. a month.

There is no single standard of living which could be taken as applicable to all classes, as there are at least four categories and each has a distinct standard. Again, the standards vary within each group and any generalization would be of little value.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £20 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £7 to £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka the rent of houses varies from £4 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are very scarce and usually are only available for limited periods while the owners are absent from the Colony on holiday. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general; or cook and house-boy; or cook, house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl. Cooks earn £4 to £7 a month and food, others £2 to £4 a month and food. Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are a little cheaper but less efficient.

A family of four persons would find little margin for the provision of education for their children, or for an occasional holiday in a cooler country, on a gross income of less than £500 a year.

Average cost of foodstuffs in common use

Butter	1s. 7d. per lb.
Bread	3d. per lb.
Milk	6d. per quart.
Cheese	1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb.
Fresh beef	10d. per lb.
Mutton	1s. 3d. per lb.
Pork	1s. 3d. per lb.
Rice	3d. per lb.
Coffee	1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.
Tea	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per lb.
Sugar, white	3d. per lb.
Sugar, brown	2d. per lb.
Salt	1½d. per lb.
Eggs	1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per dozen.
Bacon	1s. 6d. per lb.
Preserved meats	1s. per lb.
Onions	2d. per lb.
Flour	2½d. per lb.
Potatoes	13s. 6d. per cwt.

Education.—Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government schools. Tuition fees are as follows:—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free.	£2 2s. a year.
Secondary	£6 a year.	£7 10s. a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools, with reductions if two or more children of the same family are boarders.

For higher education and for health purposes many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand. The average cost of education in these circumstances is about £150 a year.

Medical Fees.—The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive.

Sports and Social Clubs.—Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s., and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis and golf clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £4 4s.

Holidays.—For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit countries which have a more temperate climate. The average return passage rates are as follows: —

New Zealand	£12 to £25
Australia	£25 to £50.
England	£90 to £160.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

The history of native education is closely interwoven with that of the various mission societies represented in Fiji. The Methodist Mission arrived in 1835. The Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870 and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889. The early missionaries reduced the language to writing, published a Fijian-English Dictionary and printed a translation of the New Testament. They established schools throughout the Colony and the high percentage of literacy is mainly due to their efforts.

The Education Ordinance of 1916 established a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register and classify schools and teachers and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

In 1926, an Education Commission was appointed to inquire into the education system and advise as to the steps to be taken to effect an improvement in the methods of, and facilities provided for, the education of the various races in the Colony. Following the recommendations of this Commission, the Department of Education was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and Ordinance No. 1 of 1929 substituted. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards of attainment to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

Grants to registered schools are based mainly on the average attendance of children of school age (6-14) for the three months preceding the 1st July in the previous year and partly on the grade of the teachers employed. Grants vary from £3 per head in a school with an average attendance of 20 pupils, to £1 18s. 8d. in a school with an average attendance of 203.

The Board has power to direct that a particular school shall be registered for the education of children of a particular race, and schools have accordingly been registered for Europeans, Fijians, Indians, Chinese and Melanesians, while a number of schools, usually in the towns, enrol children of all races.

European Education.

There are 15 schools for Europeans or part-Europeans; four are Government schools, five are controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, three by the Roman Catholic Mission and three by local committees.

All of these are primary schools and four (two Government and two Roman Catholic) have secondary departments, which prepare pupils for the Cambridge Local and University Entrance examinations.

Both manual instruction for boys, and cooking for girls, are included in the curriculum. A commercial course is given in the two schools in Suva for girls—the Girls' Grammar School and St. Joseph's Convent.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes, which are organized to enable a pupil taking the course to pass into an appropriate class in the Grammar Schools. Fifty-two pupils were enrolled during the year. The fees are £2 a year and books and stationery are supplied at cost price.

Under a scheme of co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji, the three Government schools are staffed by New Zealand teachers, who serve as a rule from two to six years in Fiji. The teachers in the Colonial Sugar Refining Company schools are usually recruited in New Zealand. The syllabus of instruction in these schools is very similar to that prescribed in New Zealand. At about the age of 13 many children leave Fiji to attend schools abroad, the greater number going to New Zealand, some to Australia and a few to England.

Half of the net cost of three of the Government schools for Europeans is met from a special education rate levied in the towns of Suva and Levuka, in which the schools are situated. Children of the owners or occupiers of houses on which education rate is paid are exempt from tuition fees in the primary classes and pay £6 a year in the secondary classes. Others pay £2 2s. in the primary and £7 10s. a year in the secondary classes. All fees are reduced by one-third when two or more members of a family attend.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for boys and the other for girls. The fee is £50 a year with liberal reductions for two or more members of a family. Hostels are also maintained by the Methodist Mission in Suva and by the Roman Catholic Mission in Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. There were 543 boys and 510 girls on the roll of the 15 schools. The gross cost to Government of all European schools was £11,340 0s. 10d.

Some European children are also enrolled in schools for children of all races. The total number of European children in all schools is 1,480.

Fijian Education.

There are 336 schools including seven Government schools for Fijians. Practically every Fijian child has access to a school of some kind although many of them are not very efficient. Grants-in-aid were paid to 131 primary schools, and the number will increase as more certificated teachers are trained. In these grant-in-aid schools Fijian is the medium of instruction in Classes 1 to 4. In addition to the usual school subjects English may be taught for a limited time per day. The seven Government schools are residential. In six of them, known as Provincial Schools, the syllabus is that of the assisted primary schools, except that more attention is paid to English, which becomes the medium of instruction in the higher classes. Each school maintains a farm and at least nine hours a week are devoted to practical agriculture.

The Fijians contribute £4,350 a year towards the maintenance of these schools. Each Province selects pupils in proportion to its annual contributions and in many Provinces the competition is so keen that it has been possible to select the brighter pupils from the local schools. Pupils usually enrol at about the age of 12 and remain at school to the end of the year in which they attain the age of 18.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians is maintained by the Government, a fee of £6 a year being charged. Six exhibitions, tenable for three years, are awarded annually on the results of a competitive examination. Other pupils are required to pass an entrance examination. The roll in 1937 was 81. The course is similar to that in Provincial schools, but owing to the more rigorous selection of pupils the standard is higher. Pupils of this school are prepared for admission to the Government service, the Teachers' Training Schools and the Central Medical School.

The total number of Fijians in all schools that forwarded returns was 16,488 of whom 9,474 were boys and 7,014 girls.

The gross cost to Government of Fijian education, excluding the Central Medical School, was £26,231 0s. 11d.

Indian Education.

In 1937 there were 77 schools for Indians including seven Government schools. Of these 59 were assisted by grants-in-aid. In the majority of these schools Hindustani is the medium of instruction in classes I to IV, but in those especially established for South Indian children Tamil is used. In addition to the usual school subjects English is taught. Many of the assisted schools are controlled by local committees which find it difficult to secure the necessary funds to supplement the grant made by Government, but generally conditions improve yearly. Indian boys may proceed to the secondary department of the Natabua Indian school where they may be prepared for the university entrance examination. The standard of all schools is improving as more trained teachers become available.

There were 6,938 Indian pupils (5,022 boys and 1,916 girls) in all schools in 1937. The gross amount spent on Indian education was £14,835 5s. 3d.

Training of Teachers.

There are three training institutions (one Government and two Mission) for male teachers. Both Indians and Fijians are enrolled in two of these and in the other Fijians only. The course is for two years and students are selected by a competitive examination. Government assistance was given towards the training of 71 students.

In 1937 special grants were paid to two Methodist Mission girls' schools to enable them to train female teachers, of whom there were 21. In addition to these a number of girls were employed as probationers in girls' schools.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate a teacher must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university or its equivalent. For the lowest or fifth class the standard is approximately that of a normal English child of 14.

Technical Schools.

The Davuilevu Technical School, controlled by the Methodist Mission, gives technical training, mainly carpentry, to Fijian boys. A similar school is maintained by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Ovalau.

Navuso Agricultural School.

This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides a course in farming and dairying for 68 young Fijian men. A Government grant of £400 was paid in 1937.

Other Schools.

Separate departmental schools are controlled by the Medical, Agricultural, and Police Departments to train their native assistants.

Finances.

The gross amount expended from general revenue in 1937 on educational services was £54,613 16s. 3d.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Mail communication within the Colony is maintained by means of vessels subsidized by Government, by motor road services, by mail carriers and by itinerant vessels.

The s.s. *Malake* runs between Suva, Levuka, Savu Savu, Deloi (Buca Bay), Rabi, and the Taveuni coast twice monthly. This vessel also calls once every two months at Malau, the port for Labasa, if so required, and four times in the year proceeds to Rotuma.

The m.v. *Adi Rewa* runs between Suva, Levuka, Nabouwalu, Dreketi and Labasa twice monthly, calling at certain small places en route either on the inward or outward journey.

The m.v. *Yanawai*, a new vessel recently built in Hong Kong for Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, runs between Suva, Levuka and Labasa twice monthly, calling at Vanua Levu ports.

A subsidized cutter conveys mails between Taveuni and Deloi (Buca Bay) once weekly.

Mails are conveyed by motor vehicle from Suva to Nausori, Naduruloulou, Korovou, Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Ba and Lautoka and return daily except Sundays, and from Lautoka to Nadi and Nadroga and return five times weekly. There is also a motor mail service three times weekly between Nausori, Korovou and Vunidawa.

Carriers are chiefly used on Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kadavu, between post offices on those islands. The services run once weekly.

External communication is provided by the British vessels *Aorangi* and *Niagara* of the Canadian-Australasian Line, to which Company a subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid, and by the American vessels *Mariposa* and *Monterey* of the Matson Navigation Company. The former vessels call at Suva, once in every four weeks, on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver, and the latter, once in every four weeks, on their voyages between Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Pago Pago, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The *Matua* provides a four-weekly cargo and passenger service between Auckland, Rarotonga, Nukualofa, Apia and Suva.

Direct steamers from London to Suva, via Panama, arrive at intervals of approximately six weeks and occasional calls are made by vessels from Australia and New Zealand travelling to ports in the United Kingdom, via Panama. Calls are also made at fairly regular intervals by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's vessel *Fiona*.

Telephone communication is available between Suva, Nausori, Naduruloulou and Vunidawa; between Suva Tailevu and Levuka on the island of Ovalau (communication between Tailevu and Ovalau being by submarine cable); Raki Raki, Nadarivatu, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka, and Nadi. Telephone exchange areas are Suva, Lautoka, Ba, Nadi, Tavua, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, and rural party lines are maintained on Taveuni (40 miles), and in the Savusavu district on the south-east coast of Vanua Levu.

Wireless stations, operated by Government, are situated at Suva, Lautoka, Rotuma, Levuka, Taveuni, Labasa and Savusavu. Wireless telephone communication exists between Levuka and the Central Leper Hospital at Makogai.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Cable and Wireless, Limited, and by wireless from the Suva station, operated by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, with the principal groups in the Western Pacific and also with Honolulu and Sydney.

Roads.

The total length of the roads of the Colony is made up as follows:—

	Miles.
Metalled	226½
Gravelled	342¼
Earth (motorable in fine weather)	77
Earth (not motorable)	52¾
Bridle tracks	1,569¾
	2,268¼

In addition the Suva Town Board controls 13½ miles of roads, of which ten are tar and bitumen surfaced.

Tramways.

The only railways or tramways in existence in Fiji are of the two-foot gauge, laid down by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, on the Rewa River; along the sea coast from Sigatoka (south-west Viti Levu) to Tavua (north of Viti Levu); in the neighbourhood of Penang on the north-east corner of Viti Levu; and at Labasa on the island of Vanua Levu. These railways are primarily for the transport of cane to the various sugar mills under the control of the Company, but the length from Sigatoka to Tavua provides a free passenger service operating to a schedule approved by the Government. The total length of permanent line laid down by the Company is 380 miles. About 220 miles of this total consist of the main line from Sigatoka to Tavua, with the necessary branch lines. Between 40 and 50 locomotives are used in connexion with the transport work of the Company.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure from public funds on the various works carried out by the Public Works Department amounted in all to £312,039 13s. 9d. This expenditure was incurred under the following headings:—

	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments	17,335	11	1
Public Works Recurrent	98,564	3	1
Public Works Extraordinary	167,981	14	3
Loan Funds	6,655	13	2
Miscellaneous	21,502	12	2
	£312,039	13	9

The corresponding figures for the previous five years are as follows:—

	£
1932	160,747
1933	148,155
1934	190,718
1935	247,369
1936	240,892

The Administration of the Department is under the control of the Director of Public Works, with headquarters in Suva, the execution of the works being divided into three branches under the District Engineers, Suva and Lautoka, and the Mechanical Engineers, Suva.

The Suva District comprises about one-third of Viti Levu and the majority of the other islands, including Rotuma. The headquarters are at Walu Bay, Suva, where the main stores and workshops are situated.

The Lautoka District comprises the Northern and Western portions of the Island of Viti Levu, and the Yasawa Group. The headquarters are at Lautoka, where there is a smaller depot consisting of stores and workshops.

The Mechanical Engineer's branch is responsible for the running of the principal quarry and stone crushing plant, for a fleet of nine launches and tugs, two slipways and of extensive workshops for boat building and all kinds of mechanical engineering workshop repairs.

The Rewa River Bridge was completed in June, 1937, and was opened to traffic. The total cost of this structure was £91,498.

The South Coast Road (Queens Road), the construction of which will complete the circuminsular route, is approaching completion, and it is anticipated that this road will be opened to traffic at the end of June, 1938.

The new Government Offices, which are estimated to cost £150,000, were started in January, 1937. Good progress has been made; all foundations were completed, and over half of the superstructure was built by the end of the year. It is hoped that these Offices will be ready for occupation in June, 1939.

It will be noted from the tabulation submitted above that the expenditure on Public Works in the Colony has risen steadily in recent years, and that the sum expended in 1937 constitutes a record.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

The Supreme Court consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall, within the Colony, have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *nisi prius,* with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England. It is a Court of Equity, and has, within the Colony, the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of

Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and, under an Order in Council dated the 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing in to Suva cases from some of the out-lying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than five to two. Special provision is made, however, in an Order in Council dated 15th September, 1911, for the trial of accused persons at Lautoka, wherein it is provided, *inter alia,* that any cause triable at the Central Criminal Court by a jury shall be triable in the Circuit Court by the Chief Justice with four assessors.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. With certain exceptions male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English, are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors.

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

In capital cases, sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor, after considering the report in Executive Council, communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the Civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony, and is governed in its practice by the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adopt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England. The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are:—The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883, and Divorce Rules, 1933.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908, and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the Criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the Civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims of value less than £50.

District Commissioners exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the magisterial districts to which they are appointed or in which they are acting. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is governed by Ordinance No. 22 of 1934. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in Civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by the Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The most recent edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. First, there are the Provincial Courts, composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives, and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in Civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 58 criminal cases (comprising 92 counts) heard at the sessions during 1937. The indictments comprised the following charges:—

Murder	2
Manslaughter	2
Carnal knowledge	1
Bestiality and unnatural offences	1
Wounding and assault	5
Bigamy	2
Abduction	2
Attempted suicide	1
Horse and cattle stealing	10
Larceny	9
Embezzlement	8
Forgery and falsification of accounts	2
Breaking and entering	4
Robbery with violence	1
Arson	2
Perjury and making false declaration	3
Dangerous driving	3
Total	58

Sixty-four writs and 21 petitions and summonses were issued in the Civil Division at the Central Registry, composed as follows:—

Actions for recovery of moneys lent	19
Moneys due under Bills of Sale, Mortgage, Liens, etc.	11
Goods sold and delivered...	9
Moneys due on accounts	4
Actions for recovery of possession of land	7
Actions for recovery of rent	4
Actions for recovery of income tax	1
Actions for recovery of chattels...	2
Actions for damages	5
Breach of contract	1
Specific performance	1
Habeas Corpus	1
Originating Summonses	5
Petitions for reduction of capital	3
Summonses and Petitions under Land (Transfer and Registration) Ordinance 1933...	2
Admission of Barristers	2
Miscellaneous	8
	85

Six petitions were filed in the Divorce Court in which one European and five Indians were concerned. There were 34 petitions for divorce by native Fijians and Rotumans.

Fifty-three grants of probate, 27 Letters of Administration and 22 orders to reseal Colonial and other grants were made in the Probate jurisdiction. The gross value of the estates concerned in these grants was £87,324 3s. 1d. Three bankruptcy petitions came before the Bankruptcy Court. There were two applications for admission as barrister and solicitor during the year. There are now 21 European and four Indian practitioners in the Colony.

One civil appeal and 17 criminal appeals were entered for hearing.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1933 to 1937 is given below:—

Year.	*Civil.*	*Divorce.*	*Native Divorce.*	*Criminal.*	*Bankruptcy.*	*Civil Appeal.*	*Criminal Appeal.*	*Grants of Probate, etc.*
1933	103	15	67	35	–	2	12	89
1934	97	22	73	45	2	–	9	101
1935	119	26	85	44	10	–	8	87
1936	114	33	85	33	6	6	19	90
1937	85	6	73	58	3	1	17	102

Police.

Composition.

The Fiji Police consists of a mixed force of Fijians and Indians, officered by Europeans. The Headquarters of the force are at Suva.

Strength.

On the 31st December, 1937, the authorized strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans.	
Commissioner of Police	1
Deputy-Commissioner of Police	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors, 1st Grade	4
Sub-Inspectors, 2nd Grade	7
Fijians.	
Non-Commissioned officers	22
Constables	89
Indians.	
Non-Commissioned officers	13
Constables	75

Armament and Training.

The Force is armed with the S.M.L.E. Mk. III rifle; all recruits undergo a course of training in police duties before being posted as constables.

Special constables under the command of the Commissioner of Police may be called upon when necessary in cases of tumult or riot.

There are 26 detachments distributed throughout the Colony. In those districts where there are no European officers the detachments come under the supervision of the District Commissioners.

Expenditure.

The total cost of the Force was £23,265 18s. 0d., being a rate per head of population of 28·14 pence.

Crime.

The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,352, classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	188
Offences against property	360
Other offences mainly against revenue laws.	1,736
Committed for Trial by Supreme Court:—	
Offences against the person	17
Offences against property	50
Other offences	1

Traffic.

The Police control traffic in the Colony and carry out the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers. The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1937 was 1,917 made up as follows:—

Motor cars for private use	753
Public motor cars	296
Lorries for private use	374
Public charabancs	401
Motor cycles	93

Seven hundred and twenty-two persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations.

Heavy motor vehicles exceeding 2½ tons gross weight unladen and the use of motor vehicles having a loaded weight of more than 6 tons are prohibited, as the existing roads, many of which have no proper stone foundations, are lightly constructed: and road bridges are mostly designed for a rolling load of 10 tons.

Prisons.

The control of prisoners is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons, subject to the orders of the Governor—(Ordinance No. 7 of 1913).

The Superintendent of Prisons is also Superintendent, Suva Gaol, which is the central gaol for the Colony. This gaol is a modern building, prisoners being confined in buildings of brick and concrete with separate cells having adequate ventilation and light. All buildings are lighted by electricity.

Vocational Training.—The industries established for vocational training are tin-smithing, blacksmithing, tailoring, awning and canvas works, carpentry and bakery. There is also an electrical sawing plant. All industries are under the direct supervision of European overseers.

Health of Prisoners.—The gaol infirmary is of modern construction and well equipped. An Indian Medical Practitioner is in residence and acts under the direct supervision of a European visiting medical officer who visits three times weekly. The health of prisoners during the year has been good.

Religious Instruction.—Prisoners are given instruction according to their various religions.

Juvenile Offenders.—Juvenile offenders are detained on the island of Makuluva which is situated about seven miles from Suva. A European officer, under the direction of the Superintendent of Places of Detention, is in charge at Makuluva, and by a regular course of elementary study with the addition of physical drill and a certain amount of carpentry and other work, is doing much to turn these young offenders into useful citizens. There is a Board of Visitors.

Classification of Prisoners.

First Class.—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class.—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class.—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class.—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisoned with hard labour.

Staff.—The Gaoler and Overseers at the central gaol are Europeans as also are the Superintendents in charge of Provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists of Fijians and Indians.

Corporal Punishment.—During the year there was one case of corporal punishment inflicted by caning.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1937 of which the following are the principal:—

The Arms Ordinance, which replaces the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1924, follows modern legislation on the subject.

The Sugar Control Ordinance was passed as a result of the International Agreement of 6th May, 1937, regarding the regulation of the production and marketing of sugar. The Governor is empowered to fix the number of tons of sugar that may be exported during the quota year in accordance with the export quota for the Colony decided upon by the Imperial Government under the above Agreement. Producers are restricted as to the amount of sugar they may hold in stock and returns are to be made as to production and stocks held.

The Explosives Ordinance replaces the Gunpowder Ordinance, 1875, and the Explosives Ordinance, 1923, and has been adapted from recent legislation on the subject.

The Coinage Offences Ordinance gives effect to the International Convention for the Supression of Counterfeiting Currency of 1929. The Ordinance re-enacts in the main the provisions of the English Act (the Coinage Offences Act, 1936).

The Government Savings Bank Ordinance is based on a model Ordinance prepared by a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the Savings Bank systems in the Crown Colonies. The repayment of all moneys deposited in the Savings Bank together with interest is guaranteed by the Government. Any dispute between the Postmaster-General who controls the Savings Bank and a depositor may be referred to arbitration. The Postmaster-General is not liable for any wrong payment but a Savings Bank officer is not thereby exempted from liability for loss caused by his fraud and where any loss is caused to a depositor without any fault on his part, payment may be made to him of the amount of his loss.

The Mining Ordinance is mainly a re-arrangement in a more convenient form of the provisions of the Mining Ordinance, 1934, and its amendments.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance follows in the main the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, of the United Kingdom and an Australian Act. It provides for the registration by a Board of all pharmacists who must possess the prescribed qualifications. Companies may carry on the business of pharmacists as part of their business if the department is under the personal control of a registered pharmacist.

Various restrictions and duties in the conduct of a pharmacy are imposed by the Ordinance, including the right to give medical advice and surgical treatment and the matter of prescriptions. Licensed storekeepers may sell certain of the more common medicines. Poisons are divided into two classes. Registered pharmacists may deal with either class, while holders of retail licences may obtain a licence to deal only with the less dangerous class.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance deals with the importation and use of dangerous drugs such as opium and cocaine. Its object is to give effect to the Colony's obligations under the Geneva Convention of 1931 and provide stricter control over such drugs.

The Sub-division of Land Ordinance provides that no land shall be sub-divided for the erection of dwellings or business premises into one or more lots containing any lesser area than three acres without the prior approval of the Sub-division of Land Board. Applications by persons wishing to sub-divide are to be made to the local authority and then forwarded to the Board with the local authority's recommendations. The Board may in approving an application impose conditions with regard to any area considered unsuitable for building purposes or with regard to the establishment of offensive trades. Minimum widths of roads and minimum areas and frontages of lots are prescribed.

PARTICULARS OF FACTORY LEGISLATION, COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS LEGISLATION, AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SICKNESS, OLD AGE, ETC.

The Steam Boilers Ordinance, 1915, provides for compensation for accidents to persons in connexion with steam boilers.

The Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1935, empowers the Governor-in-Council to fix a minimum wage for any occupation either generally or in any district if he is satisfied that the wages for that occupation are unreasonably low.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand with one. The paid-up capital of the former was £8,780,000 at the 31st December, while that of the latter was £6,328,125 at the 31st March. The amount of deposits held in the Colony by the Bank of New South Wales was £1,451,298 at the 31st December, and by the Bank of New Zealand £437,520 at the 31st March.

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which the number of accounts, at the end of the year, was 11,358 and the total amount on deposit was £350,601, an increase of £43,901 over the previous year's figure. The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows:—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1937).	393,129
Cash at Bank and with Treasury	9,560
Total	£402,689

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1937 were as follows:—

	£	£
Income from investments		13,174
Interest credited to Depositors ...	8,894	
Expenses	3,736	
		12,630
Surplus		£544

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

Currency.

Legislation in 1933 and 1934 provided for the issue of Government currency notes and coin which follow the United Kingdom currency denominations.

The Fiji pound is linked to sterling by law at the rate of £F.111 = £100 sterling.

The position of the Note Security Fund at the 31st December, 1937, was as follows:—

		Sterling.			*Fiji.*		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities ...	Notes in circulation ...				611,848	7	6
Assets ...	Note Security Fund invested portion.	586,168	10	7	650,647	1	1
	Cash with Crown Agents	31,407	13	8	34,862	10	7
	Cash with Colonial Treasurer.				21,002	9	10
		£617,576	4	3	£706,512	1	6

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures used in Fiji are the same as in England.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	147,140
1932 ...	547,461	528,604	449,743	283,746	165,997
1933 ...	605,201	569,984	590,660	389,446	201,214
1934 ...	782,914	722,963	770,343	509,178	261,165
1935 ...	733,432	641,181	857,694	504,278	353,416
1936 ...	796,630	677,152	898,373	425,479	472,894
1937 ...	947,497	878,104	1,114,843	572,556	542,287

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931, but increased at the end of 1937 to £542,287.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1937, was as under:—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928)	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929) ...	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932) ...	154,996
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 and Ordinance No. 17 of 1934).	182,497
Total (sterling)	£1,273,901

The sinking fund in connexion with the Specific Loan amounted to £F.82,878 at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to £F.25,883. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to £F.31,005 at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan, 1959, amounted to £F.20,841 at the close of the year, and for the Public Works Loan, 1960-70, to £F.9,517.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year amounted to £947,497, an increase of £150,867 as compared with 1936. The main items of revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows:—

	£
Customs	512,122
Port, wharfage and light dues	29,040
Native taxes	10,593
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	117,982
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and reimbursements-in-aid.	69,070
Post Office	41,837
Rent of Government property	13,617
Interest	42,187
Miscellaneous	22,083
Land sales and premia on leases	202
Colonial Development Fund	1,731
Extraordinary Receipts	86,333

The amounts collected for licences, stamp duties, and income tax were £22,449, £5,713, and £41,299 respectively.

The amount collected under the Residential Tax Ordinance was £23,003. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a sub-accountant by the end of March each year. Penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment.

On most articles subject to *ad valorem* duty the British preferential rate is 20 per cent. and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and benzine on which duties of 9d. and 8d. per gallon respectively are levied irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty:—

> Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for boy scouts and girl guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; church furniture, infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weed-killers; wire netting, galvanized, of not less than 4 in. mesh; wire galvanized fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries:—

> Animals; live birds and fish; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; printed periodicals and music; coconuts; collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony; showcards, prints and advertising matter and printing blocks for advertising purposes.

Machinery and implements as follows are liable to 7½ per cent. British Preferential Tariff or 22½ per cent. general tariff. These rates are effective until the 1st June, 1940:—

> Agricultural implements and butter-making and milking machines; agricultural machines; sugar-making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery.

Approved fruit and produce driers and dehydrators until the 1st June, 1940, are admitted free of duty preferential tariff and pay 15 per cent. under general tariff.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff but aims at fostering, as far as possible, local industries, and in this regard affords protection to the rice industry by imposing a duty of £2 per ton under the British preferential rate and £3 per ton under the foreign rate. It provides further, that if the cost, duty paid and landed at a Customs shed at a port of entry in the Colony, falls below £15 per ton, the duty shall be increased by such amount as shall bring such landed cost duty paid to £15 per ton. It also permits the admission free of duty of bags and sacks over two bushels of British origin.

Protection is also afforded to the local butter industry by the imposition of a duty of 4d. per pound on all fresh butter imported and by providing for the admission free of duty of boxes of wood made up or in shooks of British origin to be used as containers of butter produced in the Colony.

The soap industry also is protected by a duty of 1d. per pound under the British preferential rate and 2d. per pound under the general tariff rate on soap, laundry, in bar or cake, and sand-soap, and, with a view to affording further assistance to this industry the tariff provides for the admission free of duty of resin and tallow of British manufacture, which previously paid a duty of 20 per cent. and 10 per cent., respectively.

XVII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The system of Native Administration makes practical use of the Communal System and is regulated by the Native Regulation code. This provides for the carrying out of all communal duties, such as housebuilding, village sanitation, cultivation of food crops, maintenance of communal property, care of the sick, control of infectious diseases and many other matters of public benefit. It also provides for the levying of rates. The constitution of the various Councils is provided for in these Regulations.

These Councils are: the Council of Chiefs of Fiji which sits every two years, the Provincial Councils which sit annually, and the District Councils which sit monthly. These Councils pass Resolutions which, when they have the approval of the Governor, are enforceable.

The Provincial Councils are composed of native officials and representatives elected by the District Councils, and are presided over by the Secretary for Native Affairs or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor. These Councils have power with regard to their respective provinces similar to those enjoyed by District Councils, and also elect representatives to the Council of Chiefs.

The Council of Chiefs is composed of native Chiefs, Chiefs nominated by the Governor, and representatives are elected by the Provincial Councils. The Council of Chiefs also nominates ten Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the five Fijian representatives for the Legislative Council.

The Native Regulations are administered by Native Magistrates in special Native Courts and deal with infringements and offences. This system of Native Councils and Courts provides the Fijians with a fair measure of self-government, and ensures an adequate representation of the wishes and aspirations of the natives.

Two items of political importance to Fijians took place in 1937. The Honourable Ratu J. L. V. Sukuna, Med. Mil., M.L.C., District Commissioner, Lau, visited England as one of the two representatives from Fiji at the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI, also 2nd Lieutenant Ratu Etuate Tuivanuavou Cakobau as one of the two representatives of the Fiji Defence Force.

The other was the expression of loyalty to His Majesty by the Fijians at the Ceremony of the Installation of the King as "Tui Viti" (King of Fiji), which was held at Nasova, Suva, on the 9th June, before His Excellency the Governor and representatives of the Churches, Executive and Legislative Councils, and the Service.

Medical care is given by European medical officers, nurses, native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses, distributed throughout the Group.

The child welfare work was continued, and child welfare nurses have reported considerable improvement in the general cleanliness and well-being of native children. Increased interest is being taken in the work by mothers. Native Chiefs are also taking a more personal interest as the benefits become more apparent. There are five European infant welfare nurses stationed throughout the Colony and a sixth nurse, who is in charge of the hospital at Taveuni, gives valuable assistance on that island. There are, in addition to the European nurses, 14 native child welfare nurses, stationed in various parts of the Group. This staff is assisted by voluntary workers, both European and Fijian, in various places, and by Women's Committees in every Province.

The estimated Fijian population on the 31st December, 1937, was 99,595, an increase of 2,144 since the census taken in April, 1936. The birth rate for 1937 was 34·46 per thousand, with a total of 3,432, compared with 37·8 and 3,715 in 1936. The death rate was 21·37 per thousand with a total of 2,128, compared with 28·03 and 2,755 in 1936. The increase in the population during the year under review was 1,304.

Seven schools are controlled by Government for the education of youths over 14 years of age. One of these seven schools, the Queen Victoria Memorial School, Nasinu, provides a higher standard of education. Entrance to this school is by examination and the necessary finances are provided by Government augmented by a fee of £6 per student, per annum. The other six

Government controlled schools are financed partly by the Native Administration and partly by Government. The necessary finances for all other native schools are provided for by the Provinces controlling them; in some cases by levies, in others by voluntary subscriptions. Six boys are at present in New Zealand, one at a university, the other five at school. Government assists Provinces and Missionary Societies by grants-in-aid where the schools employ registered teachers.

There is a growing movement amongst Fijians to break away from the communal system and to cultivate their lands for their individual benefit. Provincial training farms have been commenced in Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata, and are financed by those Provinces. Other Provinces have set aside sums of money for the purpose of agricultural training and experimental agricultural plots. Native field assistants are stationed throughout the Provinces under the direction of inspecting European agricultural officers. This movement is being closely watched and guided by the Administration and every effort is being made to ensure that the growers are able to market their crops.

No hurricanes or floods were recorded during 1937, and the villages in the islands in the southern part of the Lau Group, which were devastated by a serious local hurricane in 1936, were repaired and gardens planted. The coconut plantations are gradually recovering.

The total exports of copra amounted to 30,001 tons, valued at £407,354. Approximately 60 per cent. of this was produced by Fijians.

The export of bananas overseas was as follows:—

	1936.	*1937.*
	Cases.	
To New Zealand	158,009	141,361
To Canada	9,477	10,998
To Australia	1,493	2,060
Totals	168,979	154,419

Of the above exports 95·3 per cent. was produced by Fijians, compared with 90·2 per cent. in 1936, and 85·4 per cent. in 1935.

The native tax payable to Government in 1937 amounted to £10,000, assessed *pro rata* for payment by the Provinces from Provincial funds, the collection thereof from individuals being included in the Provincial Rate. This was paid in full.

The amount of Provincial Revenue for 1937 was £38,699 9s. 1d. while expenditure was estimated at £36,103 9s. 9d.

XVIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics.

The last census was taken in April, 1936, and the figures of the Registrar-General show that on the 31st December, 1937, the estimated Indian population of the Colony was 89,333, being made up of 50,394 males and 38,939 females. 3,357 births were registered, giving a crude birth rate of 37·58 per mille, while the deaths numbered 901, giving a death rate of 10·09. The natural increase in population for the year was 2,456.

Immigration and Emigration.

As there was no sailing of the direct steamer between India and Fiji during 1937, there was a marked fall in the figures for immigration and emigration. A total of 151 Indians entered the Colony during the year, being 116 adult males, 21 adult females and 14 children. The outward passengers numbered 60, being 56 males and 4 females. No ex-indentured immigrants were repatriated at Government expense.

Destitution.

Government assistance is given to all Indian applicants who are found by investigation to be in genuine need, and the figures for outdoor relief and admission to the Poor House during 1937 are a clear indication of the limited extent to which destitution is present in the Colony.

They were, on the 31st December, 1937, as follows:—

Inmates of Poor House	32
Number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief ...	62

In addition to the foregoing, Indians were maintained at Government expense in the following institutions during 1937:—

Mental Hospital	65
Central Leper Hospital	213

Economic, Social and Political.

The production of sugar continues to be by far the largest industry, and Indians maintained their high place as growers by producing and selling to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company a total of 942,470 tons of sugar cane for which they received £696,404. The yield per acre of cane produced by tenants of the Company as compared with that of the independent growers was in the proportion of 23·5 tons to 20·1 tons, showing that the control which is exercised by the Company over the first-mentioned class, when due allowance is made for differences in soil productivity, is to the advantage of the grower and the Colony. Indians are expected to play a major part in the new pineapple undertaking of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company which will be begun in the near future.

The new constitution, with its provision for three elected and two nominated representatives each of the European and Indian communities, and for five representatives selected from a panel of the Fijian community, became effective on the dissolution of the old Legislative Council on the 12th June, 1937. At the General Election three locally born Indians were returned, one unopposed and the other two after close contests.

XIX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Before the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the Native Chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the Natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of Native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years (subject to reassessment of the rental) for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to reassessment in the 33rd and 66th years, or in the 30th and 60th years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to reassessment in the 25th and 50th years. In all cases the rent is subject to reassessment to a maximum not exceeding 5 per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with the upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas in country districts are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1937:—

Nature of title.	*No. of title.*	*Area.*	*No. of lots.*	*Estimated. area.*	*Total.*	*Total area of Colony.*
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold ...	1,598	532,742	—	—	532,742	—
Leases of Crown Lands.	44	23,169	88	2,207	25,376	—
Leases of Native Lands.	7,367	287,510	557	8,575	296,085	—
					854,203	4,523,620

Seven hundred and fifty-seven applications for leases of native lands aggregating 15,615 acres were received during the year. Of these 354 applications for 4,570 acres were approved and 277 applications for 7,255 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 80 per cent. of the total. One hundred and eighty-five applications for leases of Crown Lands aggregated 6,628 acres. Of these 102 applications for 2,681 acres were approved and 59 applications for 3,351 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, and two native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land, and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Commission completed the preparation of supplementary registers containing the names of landowners of illegitimate birth in the provinces of Cakaudrove, Macuata, and Lomaiviti. Ratu Sukuna, conjointly with his duties as District Commissioner, continued enquiries in the province of Lau. The preparation of the various registers of native lands and native landowners was continued by the office staff of the Commission.

SURVEY.

The temporary survey staff attached to the Native Lands Commission was further reduced during the year by the termination of the appointment of one officer. The effective strength during 1937 was two European surveyors and three native assistants. Surveyors were employed in the province of Kadavu. The area surveyed during the year amounted to 41,257 acres, bringing the total area surveyed for the Native Lands Commission since 1912 to 3,580,574 acres.

The strength of the survey staff of the Lands and Survey Department was six officers. Three senior members of the staff were continuously employed in administrative work at headquarters, in the examination of plans and in miscellaneous surveys in Suva including alignment surveys for the Suva Town Board. The remaining members of the staff were employed in country districts in the survey of leased lands, the design and subdivision of Indian settlements, contour and detail surveys for proposed townships and other miscellaneous work. Instructions for the survey of leases of native and

Crown lands were issued by the Crown Surveyor to eight surveyors in private practice. Four hundred and forty-three plans of survey made by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

Meteorological.

Rainfall for the year was 12·83 inches below normal (119·46 inches), November and December being rather dry months and accounting for most of the deficiency. In most other respects the year was an average one.

The following table gives the total rainfall at certain stations in Fiji during 1937 and the averages over a period of years:—

Station.	*No. of Years.*	*Total Rainfall.*	*Average Rainfall.*
Lambasa	43	75·43	81·66
Lautoka	37	67·35	69·55
Lawaqa	31	66·79	69·55
Levuka	43	108·12	91·87
Nadarivatu	37	122·72	137·94
Nabouwalu	19	98·74	104·53
Rarawai	43	68·69	80·88
Salia Levu	22	162·09	208·87
Suva	53	106·63	119·46
Vunidawa	25	99·65	141·15
Wainunu	28	121·14	147·02

From the above list it will be seen that generally the rainfall was much below normal. The greater part of this deficiency was registered during the wet months, January to April and November to December, particularly the latter months. The dry months, May to October, in most cases, had average rainfall or only slight deficiencies.

During the year no hurricanes visited the Group nor were any serious weather conditions encountered.

General.

The Coronation of His Majesty the King was suitably celebrated in Suva and throughout the Colony on the 12th May. The representatives of the Colony in England were the Honourable Sir H. M. Scott, K.C., Member of Executive Council and for many years a Member of Legislative Council, and the Honourable Ratu J. L. V. Sukuna, District Commissioner and Native Member of the Legislative Council. Major C. A. B. Joske, O.B.E., M.C., E.D., and 2nd Lieutenant Ratu Edward Cakobau represented the Fiji Defence Force.

The Legislative Council constituted under the 1929 Letters Patent was dissolved on the 11th June, 1937, and the Letters

Patent dated the 2nd April, 1937, were brought into force by proclamation on the 12th June, 1937. Elections of an European member and an Indian member in each of the three new electoral divisions then proceeded, and the final results were declared by the middle of August.

The newly constituted Legislative Council assembled on the 24th September and during the session which closed on the 13th October considered, *inter alia*, the Public Services Reorganization Report and the Report on Education in Fiji by Mr. A. I. Mayhew, C.M.G., C.I.E.

The Council met again between the 23rd and the 27th November and passed the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1938.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.).	6s.
Viti. By Berthold Seeman ...	Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London. 1862.	10s.
King and People of Fiji. By Rev. J. Waterhouse.	Wesleyan Conference Office. 1866.	
Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904.	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson ...	Heinemann, London. 1905...	25s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	Seely, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922.	21s.
Journal of William Lockerby ...	Hakluyt Society, Cambridge University Press. 1925.	
Journal of Thomas Williams. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 2 vols. 1931.	
Fiji and Fijians, 1835–1856. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, and The Australian Book Co., London.	25s.
The Discoverers of the Fiji Islands. By Professor G. C. Henderson.	Murray, London. 1933 ...	15s.
King of the Cannibal Isles. By A. B. Brewster.	Robert Hale, London. 1937	18s.

The following official publications can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, or from the Government Printer, Suva :—

The Colony of Fiji—Handbook, 1937. Lib. edition	3s.
Mag. edition	2s.
Annual Blue Book, 1937	5s.
Census Report, 1936	5s.
Forests of the Colony of Fiji—Report by Mr. R. A. Sykes (without maps)	2s.
Annual Report of the Director of Medical Services, 1937	2s.
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture, 1937	1s.

The Agricultural Journal, published quarterly, is obtainable from the Director of Agriculture, Suva ... ... 1s. per copy.

Postage is charged extra on all official publications.

A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—Handbook, 1937."

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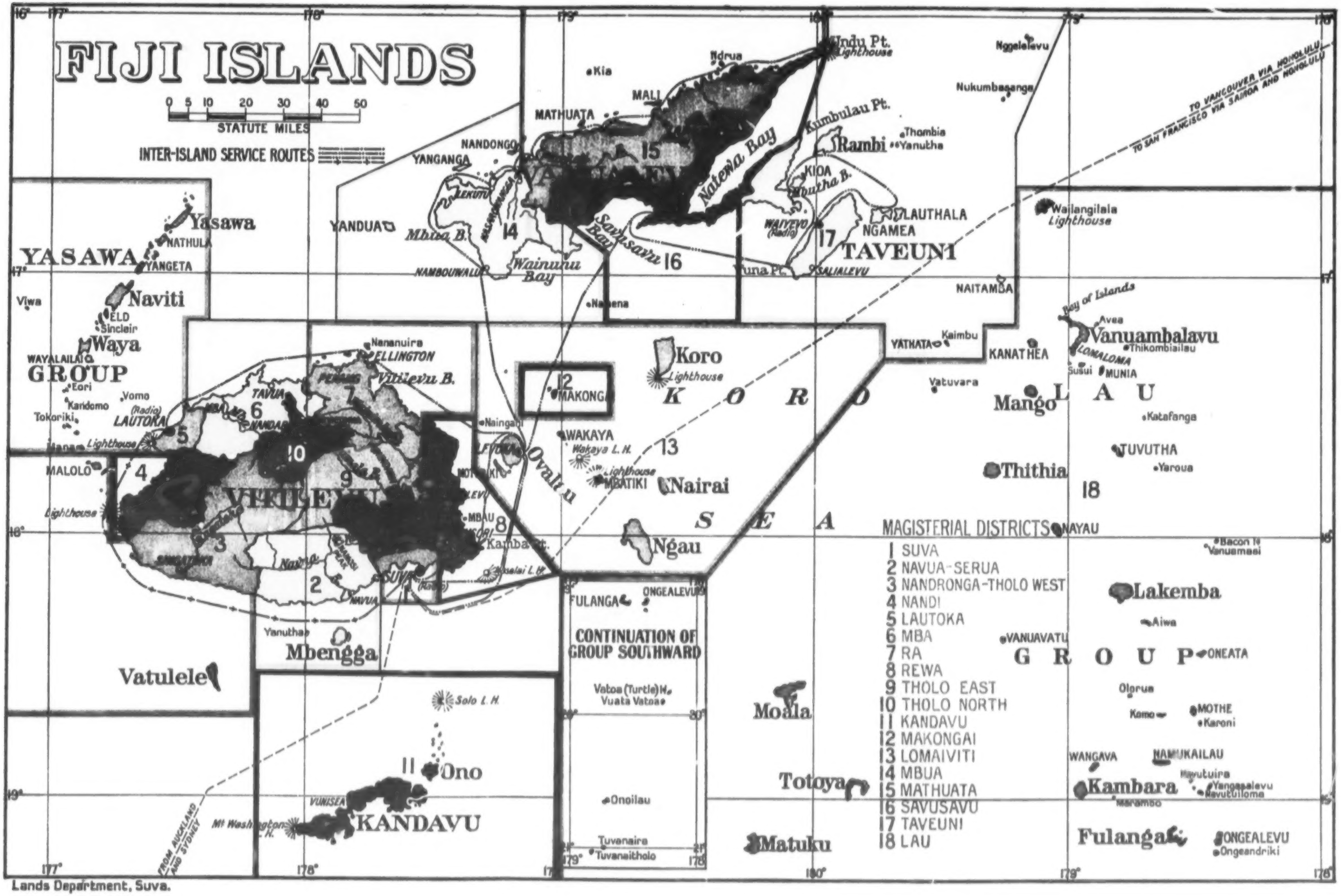
FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
STATUTE MILES
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
1 SUVA
2 NAVUA-SERUA
3 NANDRONGA-THOLO WEST
4 NANDI
5 LAUTOKA
6 MBA
7 RA
8 REWA
9 THOLO EAST
10 THOLO NORTH
11 KANDAVU
12 MAKONGAI
13 LOMAIVITI
14 MBUA
15 MATHUATA
16 SAVUSAVU
17 TAVEUNI
18 LAU
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
NATHULA
YANGETA
Naviti
ELD
Sinclair
Waya
WAYALAILAI
Viwa
Eori
Karidomo
Tokoriki
Vomo
(Radio)
LAUTOKA
Lighthouse
Mana
MALOLO
Lighthouse
VITILEVU
ELLINGTON
Nananuira
Vitilevu B.
TAVUA
NANDI
MBA
Naingani
LEVUKA
Ovalau
MBAU
Kamba Pt.
SUVA
NAVUA
Yanutha
Mbengga
Vatulele
Solo L.H.
Ono
VUNISEA
Mt Washington L.H.
KANDAVU
MAKONGAI
WAKAYA
Wakaya L.H.
Lighthouse
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Lighthouse
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Wainunu Bay
Savusavu Bay
VANUALEVU
NANDONGO
YANGANGA
MATHUATA
MALI
Kia
Ndrua
Natewa Bay
Undu Pt.
Lighthouse
Nggelelevu
Nukumbasanga
Kumbulau Pt.
Rambi
Thombia
Yanutha
KIOA
Buthu B.
WAIYEVO
(Radio)
TAVEUNI
LAUTHALA
NGAMEA
Vuna Pt.
SALIALEVU
NAITAMBA
TO VANCOUVER VIA HONOLULU
TO SAN FRANCISCO VIA SAMOA AND HONOLULU
Wailangilala
Lighthouse
Bay of Islands
Avea
Vanuambalavu
Thikombiailau
LOMALOMA
Susui
MUNIA
YATHATA
Kaimbu
KANATHEA
Vatuvara
Mango
LAU
Katafanga
TUVUTHA
Yaroua
Thithia
NAYAU
Bacon I.
Vanuamasi
Lakemba
Aiwa
VANUAVATU
GROUP
ONEATA
Olorua
Komo
MOTHE
Karoni
WANGAVA
NAMUKAILAU
Havutuira
Yangasalevu
Navutuiloma
Kambara
Marambo
Fulanga
ONGEALEVU
Ongeandriki
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
FULANGA
ONGEALEVU
CONTINUATION OF GROUP SOUTHWARD
Vatoa (Turtle) I.
Vuata Vatoa
Onoilau
Tuvanaira
Tuvanaitholo
FROM AUCKLAND AND SYDNEY
16°
17°
18°
19°
177°
178°
179°
180°

Lands Department, Suva.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1938

Report and Proceedings [Colonial No. 156] 2s. (2s. 2d.)

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Reports by Mr. J. S. Neill and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
[Colonial No. 155] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

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Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
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CEYLON
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FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
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GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
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NYASALAND
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ST. HELENA
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Statement to accompany the Estimates for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services, 1939 [Cmd. 6023] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

NUTRITION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Economic Advisory Council. Report of Committee.

1st Report—Part I. [Cmd. 6050] 3s. (3s. 4d.)

1st Report—Part II. Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire [Cmd. 6051] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A comprehensive Survey, including Memoranda on the Economic Situation of the individual Dependencies and on the Products of the Colonial Empire

Survey for 1936 [Colonial No. 149] £1 7s. 6d. (£1 8s. 2d.)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1938, to 31st March, 1939 [Cmd. 6062] 9d. (10d.)

LOCAL LEGISLATURES IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Return showing the composition, etc. [H. of C. 169, 1937/38] 6d. (7d.

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

HIGHER EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies [Colonial No. 142] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936 [Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

A Survey [Colonial No. 124] 6d. (7d.)

EAST AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, AMANI

Eleventh Annual Report [Colonial No. 167] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI FOR 1938

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PRONUNCIATION OF FIJIAN WORDS

NOTE.—When used in the spelling of Fijian names and place names the following letters symbolize the sounds shown :—

c = th (soft) as in "*th*is"
b = mb as in "nu*mb*er"
d = nd as in "u*nd*er"
g = ng as in "si*ng*er"
q = ngg as in "fi*ng*er"

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Fiji, which is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean, is composed of a group of some 250 islands, which lie between latitude 15° and 22° south and between longitude 177° west and 175° east. About 80 of these islands are inhabited. The largest island is Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, the next in size being Vanua Levu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east. The total area of the Colony is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, which is situated on the south-east side of Viti Levu, is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin mainly to volcanic upheaval upon an old continental shelf. Fossiliferous sediments, mudstones (locally called " soapstone ") and limestone are extensively found in Viti Levu. The windward islands are mostly excellent examples of coral atolls. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, although several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni, were formidable craters in past times. Hot springs are found in various localities throughout the islands.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria (4,550 feet), which is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Viti Levu, the next highest on this island being Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanua Levu rises to 3,437 feet, and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs. Between these reefs and the shore lies an extensive, intricate, system of protected waterways, navigable by smaller trading vessels, with a number of excellent deepwater anchorages.

Climate.

The climate of Fiji is oceanic. The south-east trade-wind blows from May to November and during the remaining months the direction of the wind is variable. Between December and April when hot northerly winds blow from the Equator the temperature may occasionally rise as high as 96° F. and the humidity may reach saturation point. The total average annual rainfall in the well defined " wet " and " dry " zones varies from 60 to 140 in. and the temperature varies from a minimum of 60° F. to a maximum of 96° F.

The highest temperature in the shade at Suva in 1938 was 92° F. on the 1st March, and the lowest 62° F. on the 21st July. In 1938, in the " wet " zone, the mean minimum shade temperature was 72·9° F. and the mean maximum 83·5° F., with a mean humidity of 83·8 per cent. In the " dry " zone the corresponding temperature figures were 69·7° F. and 85·3° F. and the mean humidity considerably less. The capital, Suva, is situated in the " wet " zone. The total rainfall at Suva was 158·85 in. and in Lautoka 90·25 in. The average annual rainfall for Suva is 120·18 in. The rainfall extends over the whole year, but May to October is usually the driest period. Between November and April, the wet season, cyclonic storms occasionally occur.

History.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643, and is certainly the first to leave an authentic record of his discovery. During the course of a voyage of discovery from Batavia, he entered the north-east part of the Fiji Archipelago, crossed the reef-strewn waters of the northern end of Taveuni to Udu Point, and thence sailed out of the Group to the north-west. There are reasons, however, for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of Vatoa, one of the most southerly islands in the Group, and the neighbouring waters in 1774; and Bligh, in 1789, sailed through the Group from south-east to north-west. In the same year he made a second voyage through the Group in a different direction and is credited with the discovery of 39 islands, including the principal island of Viti Levu.

Captain Wilson also made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive, though somewhat inaccurate, chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours, and published the results of his investigations a few years later. Uncharted shoals are still found, and, where possible, surveyed by one of His Majesty's ships stationed in the Pacific.

The early voyages and discoveries in the Fiji Archipelago are exhaustively dealt with by Professor G. C. Henderson in his recent work " Discoverers of the Fiji Islands." (*See* Appendix.)

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time and indeed for many years afterwards, were ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza,* with 40,000 dollars, from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in Bau, where he taught the natives the use of firearms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in inter-tribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Connor attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanua Levu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter,* of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji were Native Methodists from Tonga in October, 1835. They began their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau (or Eastern) Group, which was a vassal chiefdom. By their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the neighbouring mainland area of Cakaudrove. Similarly, when missionaries established themselves at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, and at Rewa, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans, who by their prowess in war were then paramount, was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism had for a long time played an important part in the ceremonials of the Fijian people; it was interwoven in the elements of society, and was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, acting on behalf of his fellow-countrymen already settled in the Colony, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, " if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the Chiefs of Fiji " acknowledge ratified and renewed the offer of the cession of Fiji to Grea Britain which had been made on the 12th October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time, the shortage in the world supplies of cotton caused by the American Civil War led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A Constitution was agreed upon and a Parliament was elected, but it was not long before the Parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and subsequently the Ministry governed without the aid of a Parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported the offer of the sovereignty of the islands made by the Chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The mission was successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, a Tongan Chief who had become the Chief of the Lau Group, and the other principal Chiefs, in a Deed of Cession dated 10th October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution of the Government.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent dated 2nd April, 1937, and the Royal Instructions dated the 9th February, 1929, as amended by certain Additional Instructions dated the 2nd April, 1937.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary and Treasurer as *ex officio* members, two other official and two nominated unofficial members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, three *ex officio* members, thirteen official members, five European members, of whom three are elected and two nominated, five native nominated members, and five Indian members, of whom three are elected and two nominated. The *ex officio* members are the persons for the time being discharging the functions of the offices of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Treasurer of the Colony. The official members are persons holding offices of emolument under the Crown in the Colony. There is thus an official majority of one.

The European elected members are elected by male persons of 21 years of age and upwards, who are of European descent, are British subjects, can read, write and speak the English language, and who are possessed of a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The native members are selected by the Governor from a list submitted by the Great Council of native Chiefs.

The qualifications required of an Indian elector are that he must be a male British subject, of Indian descent, of 21 years of age and upwards and able to read and write a simple sentence and sign his name either in English or in one of the six main Indian languages spoken in the Colony; there is also a small property or income qualification. No person drawing a salary from Colonial funds is eligible to be an elector.

The European and Indian nominated members are appointed by the Governor, and must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown in the Colony.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, are extended to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

Local Government.

The administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka was transferred by Ordinance No. 15 of 1935, from elected Councils to Nominated Boards.

Levuka was proclaimed a Township under the Townships Ordinance of 1928 with effect from 1st July, 1935.

The Towns Ordinance was passed in December, 1935, and provides for the appointment of a Suva Town Board, to consist of seven official members, two European unofficial members, two Fijian unofficial members, and two Indian unofficial members, all of whom are nominated by the Governor.

The Town Board is responsible for the administration of the town of Suva, having jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter houses, and building construction. The Board levies rates and also collects licence fees from businesses carried on within the town. The electricity supply of Suva is under the management of the Town Board.

The Townships Ordinance of 1928 gives the Government power to declare any area, not being a town constituted under the Towns Ordinance of 1935, to be a township. The Ordinance is administered by a Township Board whose chief duty is to exercise control over the sanitary conditions of the township. There are three proclaimed townships in the Colony, Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, Nausori in the district of Rewa and Namoli in the district of Lautoka.

The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1935, and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

In country districts there are Road Boards, under the chairmanship of District Commissioners, who are responsible for the maintenance of public roads. General control over the work and the expenditure of Road Boards is exercised by the Central Road Board, which consists of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor.

The system of native local administration is referred to later under Chapter XVII, Native Affairs.

Languages.

English is the ordinary official language of the Colony. From the many Fijian dialects that of Bau has been adopted for use throughout the Colony. Bauan is understood by all and can be spoken by most Fijians. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of approximately 2,900, an entirely different language is spoken which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups, including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 92,309, Hindustani is generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Canarese languages are also spoken. The Chinese population of approximately 1,979 speak Cantonese.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Fiji on the 31st December, 1938, was estimated to be as follows:—

> Europeans, 4,188; persons of European and native descent, 4,879; Fijians, 101,285; Polynesians, Melanesians and Micronesians, 1,637; Indians, 92,309; Rotumans, 2,967; Chinese, 1,979; others, 1,274; making a total population of 210,518. Of this total, Fijians comprised 48·11 per cent., Indians 43·84 per cent., and Europeans 1·98 per cent.

The density of population was estimated at 28·32 persons to the square mile.

The Rotuman population was estimated at 0·40 to the square mile, but as the Rotumans are centred almost wholly in the island of Rotuma, which has an area of 14 square miles only, the actual population was 210·92 to the square mile.

There were 7,979 births registered during the year, which was an increase of 695 on the previous year. The following table shows the rate per thousand of the population for the years 1934 to 1938:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Europeans	8·82	12·56	15·39	16·75	13·37
P.E.N.D.	24·21	42·12	34·44	31·54	32·38
Fijians	37·52	36·53	37·80	34·46	37·63
Rotumans	36·83	51·54	38·33	44·25	43·48
Indians	37·19	37·37	40·15	37·58	39·52

There were 3,388 deaths registered during the year, which was 163 more than in 1937. The following table shows the death-rate per thousand of the population for the years 1934 to 1938:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938*
Europeans	6·93	6·89	7·93	8·49	9·07
P.E.N.D.	9·15	8·53	11·19	8·41	7·17
Fijians	19·78	21·79	28·03	21·37	20·94
Rotumans	46·04	26·94	23·56	19·90	25·95
Indians	10·15	8·10	12·32	10·09	11·20

The infant mortality rates were:—

> Europeans, 89·28; persons of European and native descent, 56·96; Fijians, 107·05; Indians, 76·75; Rotumans, 139·45; whole Colony, 92·28.

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the years 1934 to 1938:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Europeans	32	32	31	46	32
P.E.N.D.	33	37	32	44	41
Fijians	778	838	817	816	808
Rotumans	16	28	29	22	19
Indians	1,038	921	903	875	888

The marriage rates per thousand of the population were:—

> Europeans, 7·64; persons of European and native descent, 8·40; Fijians, 7·97; Indians, 9·61; Rotumans, 6·40; total, 8·69.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration is controlled by the Immigrants Ordinance, 1909, and strict supervision is exercised to prevent the immigration of destitutes and undesirables.

The immigration of Indians is controlled by the issue of permits to intending immigrants after each case has been considered by Government.

The following statistics show emigration and immigration during 1938:—

EMIGRATION.

Nationality.	*Departures.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,575	4,188	61·48
Indians	491	92,309	·531
Chinese	44	1,979	2·22
Pacific Islanders	185	110,768	·167
Others	42	1,274*	3·29

IMMIGRATION.

Nationality.	*Arrivals.*	*Population.*	*Percentage.*
Europeans	2,519	4,188	60·18
Indians	859	92,309	·935
Chinese	188	1,979	9·49
Pacific Islanders	195	110,768	·176
Others	37	1,274*	2·90

* Population of "Others" as in Blue Book 1938. Passengers in transit numbered 22,991.

IV.—HEALTH.

Medical Service.

The Fiji Medical Service consists of a Director of Medical Services, and 16 other medical appointments which include the Government Pathologist in charge of the laboratories, and the Principal of the Central Medical School.

Public Health.

The direct executive authority over public health matters is the Central Board of Health, a body upon which there are unofficial representatives. Local Authorities are responsible for the public health in all urban and many rural areas. The Director of Medical Services is *ex officio* Chairman of the Central Board of Health, and District Commissioners are Chairmen of the Local Authorities in their respective areas except in the case of townships, when the Government Medical Officer is Chairman. There is one full-time Medical Officer of Health stationed in Suva. Government Medical Officers in country districts are *ex officio* Medical Officers of Health in their respective areas, and there is a staff of qualified Sanitary Inspectors, Sanitary Overseers, who are not holders of diplomas, and Sanitary Assistants.

The public health of the non-native community is administered under the Public Health Ordinance, the Quarantine Ordinance and the Pure Food Ordinance: among the communally living native Fijians it is administered under the Native Regulations, and by a special staff which includes European Welfare Nurses, Native Medical Practitioners, and Native Nurses. Co-ordination is effected through the Government Medical Officers, who are the responsible authorities.

The year 1939 saw many changes in Suva, the most important being the handing over to the Government Medical Officer of Health the full control of the town's sanitary staff; the extension of the Town Board's scavenging service to include suburban areas; the reorganisation of the town rubbish dump; the examination of the sewerage system with a view to its improvement and extension; and the beginning of a serious effort to control flies and mosquitoes. The new offices of the Medical Officer of Health are centrally situated and are modern in construction and equipment.

The sanitary measures in force in the capital are in force also in the country districts, where, however, with the exception of septic tanks in the larger type of houses, there is no water borne sewerage, and the disposal of night soil is by latrines of the bore hole or pit type fitted with cement tops. The installation of latrines throughout the country districts has been carried on under a soil sanitation campaign in which the Rockefeller Foundation has co-operated with Government.

Research.

The Pathological Laboratory is under the supervision of a trained Pathologist assisted by a Technician, a Native Medical Practitioner and other assistants. During the year 5,783 examinations were carried out in the laboratory, where most vaccines used in the Colony are now manufactured, and where veterinary work as well as medical pathology and bacteriology is undertaken.

The laboratory is extremely well fitted for research as well as for routine work, and during 1939 it is intended to utilise its facilities for the investigation of the Colony's nutrition problem.

Medical Education.

The Central Medical School had its origin in a training school for Fijian medical practitioners which was first opened in 1888, and by arrangement between the Fiji Government and the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation was made available in 1928 to native students from other island groups in the Pacific. The Foundation generously gave £8,000 towards the cost of erecting and equipping the school when it was enlarged to become the Central Medical School. Its teaching staff consists of a full time Principal and 14 honorary lecturers and demonstrators. The students who are all required to board at the school hostel, consist of—17 Fijians, two Indians, six Samoans, four Tongans, five Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, three Cook Islanders and one each from the New Hebrides and Nauru Island, making a total of 42 on the 31st December, 1938.

The school is under the control of an Advisory Board of which the Director of Medical Services is Chairman and the Principal is Secretary. The course of training now occupies a period of four years and is divided into three sections; the first section of six months is taken up with instruction in chemistry, physics and biology; the second section of one year for anatomy and physiology; and the third section of two and a half years for medicine, surgery, midwifery, etc. The students are known as junior students in the first two sections, and as senior students in the third and final section.

On qualifying, graduates receive the school diploma which entitles them to practise medicine and surgery as Native Medical Practitioners, either as members of the Government Service, or under the special authority of Government. The total number of graduates of the Central Medical School to date is 102, including 63 native Fijians and seven Indians. The balance is made up of graduates from the other island groups which include Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Hebrides and the British Solomon Islands.

The Native Medical Practitioner service, for which the Central Medical School prepares its graduates, is essentially a subordinate medical service, and after they have graduated its members return, as far as possible, to their original position in the social order of the people to whom they belong. During the 60 years of its existence in Fiji the Native Medical Practitioner Service has played a most important part in inculcating in the Fijians an appreciation of Western medicine and public health.

Child Welfare.

There is a Child Welfare organisation which concentrates upon the Fijians owing to the high infant mortality rate of that race, and in which specially trained European and native welfare workers are engaged. The aim of the work is to delegate as much responsibility as possible to the people themselves, and in each village there are one or more voluntary women workers, who inspect the children and advise the mothers. As a result of Child Welfare work the standard of domestic hygiene has improved, skin diseases among the children have been reduced, and the prestige of the Fijian woman has been raised. All possible means are used to impress upon the Fijians the fact that the preservation of their race lies in their own hands.

Infectious Diseases.

Dysentery.—During the year 1,621 cases of dysentery were reported. The cases were generally of the Flexner variety.

Typhoid.—214 cases of typhoid were reported for the Colony, as compared with 216 during 1937.

Leprosy.—The leper hospital and settlement on the island of Makogai attains a high standard of treatment and care of the patients. It has a staff consisting of a Medical Superintendent and 15 European and ten Fijian Roman Catholic Sisters. The segregation of lepers in Fiji is compulsory, and by a co-operative arrangement Makogai is also used for the segregation of lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Female patients are housed in the main hospital centre, which also provides accommodation for advanced cases among male patients. Cases which are less heavily affected live in villages, there generally being one village for each race or class. The inhabitants of these villages are encouraged to plant food crops which they use for their own consumption, or sell to the authorities for consumption by the patients within the hospital. A reasonable income is thus secured to the patients, which can be augmented by their individual capacities as artisans or labourers.

The island is strictly divided into an infected area through which the patients are allowed to roam at will, and an uninfected area which is strictly reserved for members of the staff. In the uninfected area there is a farm of which the products are used by the patients, including soap which is manufactured from copra. Every possible effort is made to increase the contentment of the patients and reduce the expenditure on maintenance. During 1938 a new electric plant was installed throughout the island, and, in addition to the improvement which it has effected in the lighting of all parts of the settlement, it is used as the power for the manufacture of ice and to drive pumps installed in a number of recently constructed wells.

The two impressions which a visitor to Makogai would carry away with him are the great natural beauty of the surroundings and the contented looks of the patients.

Under the system which is in force at the leper colony, patients who have been entirely free of active organisms for a period of two years, and who are no longer infectious, are discharged and permitted to return to their homes on the condition that they report themselves at intervals of three months to the nearest Government Medical Officer. If there should be a return of the disease they are immediately sent back. The system is working extremely well and many ex-Makogai patients are now employed as useful members of the community.

V.—HOUSING.

In the urban district of Suva the Town Board is the Local Authority, the Medical Officer of Health being a member of the Board and Chairman of its Health Committee.

The sanitary duties are carried out under the supervision of the Board's Chief Sanitary Inspector, the control of infectious diseases being the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health as executive officer of the Central Board of Health.

Town-planning and Building Regulations.—The business part of the town of Suva is changing from a collection of temporary premises erected without much attention to future requirements. Permanent buildings in concrete are springing up on the more important sites. The laying down of improved and wider roads has done much to improve the appearance of parts of the business area.

Adequate Building Regulations and the Subdivision of Land Regulations now enable strict control over all new buildings in Suva.

The standard of buildings being erected in the Suva rural district has greatly improved since the new Public Health Regulations came into force.

The Indian Settlement at Samabula is growing rapidly.

The European settlements at Suva Point and Lami are slowly extending.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The products of the Colony include sugar, copra, molasses, bananas, butter, ghee, cotton, fresh vegetables, canned pineapples, fresh pineapples, citrus and other fresh fruits, Mauritius beans, bêche-de-mer, coconuts, coconut oil, gum, soap, hides, turtle shell, trochus shell, cattle and goats, rice, maize, kava, tobacco and gold bullion.

Sugar.

The production of sugar, the principal industry of the Colony, is conducted by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, which operates five mills, purchases all the cane produced and disposes of the sugar and by-products. The production of sugar-cane is mainly in the hands of East Indians who farm small holdings under leases from, and under the supervision of, the Company. The 1938 crop was less than in 1937, due to a severe drought and, in certain districts, to a gale at the end of February.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has continued its investigation and development of improved agricultural and manufacturing methods throughout the year. Amongst these investigations should be mentioned the breeding and selection of improved varieties of disease-resistant cane and their suitability for the different soil and climatic conditions of the various districts and a campaign for the control of " Fiji disease " of cane.

With the exception of the small quantity of sugar consumed locally, the crop is exported. The principal countries of consignment are the United Kingdom and Canada. Since there is no refinery in the Colony, requirements of refined sugar are imported from New Zealand.

For the crop year ending on the 30th June, 1938, the area crop was 47,319 acres, while 134,415 tons of sugar, valued at £1,338,183, were exported. A portion of the molasses is used locally for stock feed and the balance, approximately 19,000 tons, is exported to Australia and New Zealand.

The Company has established a practical training farm for Fijian youths where they are taught the rudiments of general agriculture, with special reference to sugar-cane production.

Copra.

Two-thirds of the production of copra is in the hands of Fijians who utilise their lands, large areas of which are self-sown. Generally speaking the methods of drying are primitive, with the result that poor quality copra is produced. In an endeavour to improve the grade, the erection of a small cheap type of hot air drier has been encouraged, and considerable progress in this direction has been made during the past two years.

The larger European-owned estates have suffered from the fall in value of copra and from a scarcity of labour.

The Fijians dispose of the bulk of their production in small quantities to country stores near to their villages and in some cases whole coconuts and " green " copra are bartered for goods. European planters sell their copra to the principal merchants in the Group, although a few dispose of their crops abroad through a co-operative organisation. These merchants also control the storage and freight space. The markets are the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and Australia. Exports for 1938 amounted to 33,475 tons valued by the

Customs Department at £270,915, although the average local price paid to producers was only £6 2s., the difference covering local freight, bags and other charges between production and export.

Bananas.

New Zealand is the principal market, but exports to the Dominion are restricted by a quota. The Australian market took large supplies until 1921 when the tariff charge on bananas was increased to 8s. 4d. per cental. This rendered profitable trading impossible, and it was not until the Ottawa Agreement came into operation that exports to Australia were again possible. Under the terms of that agreement, entry is permitted to 40,000 centals of bananas per annum at a tariff charge of 2s. 6d. per cental. Despite the superiority of the fruit, experience has shown that prices in the Commonwealth do not render trading profitable, except during the winter months when Australian fruit is short. Unfortunately, there is a shortage in local production at that time, and normally the whole of the fruit is required for the more profitable market in New Zealand.

Exports were as follows in 1938:—

New Zealand... ...	149,367 cases averaging 95 lb.
Canada	17,656 cases averaging 60 lb.

Fijians produce some 95 per cent. of the export. The fruit is purchased by European buyers at selected packing stations at prices fixed from time to time by a Board representing Government and the exporters. The prices are fixed on f.o.b. Suva terms, by agreement with the Government of New Zealand. The buyers pay for the fruit in cash at the time of delivery and provide cases and transport to Suva and meet all charges.

Citrus.

New Zealand is the only external market. Practically the whole of the crop is from self-sown trees near Fijian villages, consequently there are wide variations in quality. Mandarins, which form the bulk of the exports, are of excellent quality.

The export of citrus is handled by an association of shippers in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, which grades and packs the fruit. The shippers purchase from the growers at prices approved by Government and arrange transport to the packing shed at Suva.

Exports during 1938 amounted to 6,972 cases made up of 5,109 cases of mandarins, 1,779 cases of oranges, 73 cases of grapefruit and 11 cases of limes—valued at £3,945.

Rice.

Accurate information as to the quantity produced is not available, but it is estimated that 10,000 tons are produced in normal seasons. East Indians produce the bulk from small holdings. Fijians, as a result of employment on coconut plantations and at the gold mines where a rice ration is issued, are becoming larger consumers of rice, and many now cultivate small areas. The crop is hulled in small mills near the growing areas. A limited quantity is hand-milled by the growers for home consumption.

There is room for a considerable expansion of the crop by small holders, as ample lands are available. Imports of rice for the year 1938 amounted to 1,954 tons valued at £21,456.

The industry enjoys a tariff protection of £2 per ton, but high costs of production, marketing and alternative more profitable cultivations have retarded development.

Tobacco.

An amount of tobacco is grown in small areas, principally by Indians, but there is, as yet, little commercial production. Experiments by the Agricultural Department show that with proper cultural, harvesting and curing methods, a good cigar-filler type can be grown. Cigars and cheroots made at an experimental station have found a ready sale. The Agricultural Department continued the purchase of leaf for manufacture of " stick " tobacco for sale to labourers, but the factory was recently destroyed by fire.

Pineapples.

Strong Australian competition in the New Zealand market made the export of fresh pineapples negligible, and only 844 cases were exported in 1938. Most of the fruit was produced by Indians who sell to local buyers at an average price of 3s. per case. A small European-owned cannery at Ovalau, which has been improved with modern machinery, exported pineapple juice and " crush ". The demand was in excess of the supply, and efforts to stimulate Fijian production were made. The export of canned pineapple products was 134,957 lb.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, continued planting on the west coast of Viti Levu and established a cannery which began operation at the end of the year, when it was anticipated that some thousands of cases would be packed. The Company has experimented in the best methods of cultivation and planting, paper mulch, spacing, and the control of pests and diseases.

Cotton.

Vigorous efforts were made to stimulate the growing of cotton, but the results were not satisfactory, many acres being destroyed by floods and storms. The varieties grown are Sea Island and a locally-bred back-cross. The cultivation is principally in the hands of Indians. The average return was £4 19s. 8d. per acre.

The crops are purchased by Government which operates two small ginneries in the dry zone of Viti Levu. The total production of the Sea Island variety was 23,303 lbs. of seed cotton from 116 acres; the back-cross crop amounted to 61,129 lbs. of seed cotton from 140 acres.

Breeding and selection work and spacing trials were continued by Government, special attention being given to the maintenance of the purity and grade of the Sea Island and to the improvement and stabilization of the lint of the back-cross, and to its increase in yield.

Subsidiary Crops for Export.

New Zealand is the only market for subsidiary crops, with the exception of whole coconuts, Mauritius bean, and tomatoes which find markets elsewhere. The Dominion demand is small and it is unlikely that the export trade in the products referred to below will expand, unless additional markets can be found.

Kumalas (Sweet Potatoes).—Kumalas for export are grown principally by Chinese market gardeners near Suva, but Fijians elsewhere are becoming interested in this crop. A general export of 12,867 sacks was sold in New Zealand in 1938.

Pawpaws, granadillas and taro.—These are comparatively new items of minor exports. Pawpaws and granadillas of the finest quality are produced in the Colony and the local consumption, especially of the former, is of considerable proportions.

A profitable export is difficult as the demand is as yet small, and heavy losses in pawpaws occur during transport. Granadillas suffer from fruit flies and isolation in fly-proof chambers after cutting is impracticable owing to the rapid deterioration of the fruit. All granadillas for export are required to be bagged on the vines for at least two weeks prior to export. Taro is one of the staple foods of the Fijians. Small shipments were made to New Zealand during 1938 and while remunerative prices were received for small consignments, experience showed that values receded considerably in an over-supplied market. A stronger demand is expected when the vegetable is better known.

Cucumbers, Melons and Pumpkins.—These are produced in excellent quality and find profitable seasonal markets in New Zealand. Chinese market gardeners near Suva are the principal producers. Exports included 2,781 boxes of cucumbers and 6,474 of melons and pumpkins.

Tomatoes.—A comparatively large trade was formerly done with Australia in tomatoes, but declining prices in recent years have reduced the export, only 1,402 boxes being sold in 1938.

Coconuts.—Small exports to Australia, New Zealand and Canada are made periodically, but the margin of profit is too small to prove attractive.

Mauritius Beans.—This legume is largely used as a cover crop in the sugar industry and, formerly, substantial exports of seed were made to Queensland for the same purpose. The use of other leguminous plants and a diversion of the trade from Fiji to New Guinea has curtailed export in recent years. Exports during the year amounted to 224 sacks.

Products consumed locally.

Maize.—Formerly the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, purchased large quantities of maize under contracts with Indian growers but, with the development of tenant farming in the sugar industry, the demand for maize diminished and growers find difficulty in selling their crops. There is still, however, a considerable demand for maize, but the lack of organization has restricted demands owing to the uncertainty of supplies and the wide fluctuation in price. An uncertain market for maize exists in New Zealand. Exports on a small scale are being made to stabilise prices in order to stimulate local consumption for cattle and poultry. The use of maize flour as a substitute for wheat sharps is receiving attention.

Potatoes.—Excellent potatoes are produced in a number of areas, especially on the Sigatoka River, but the annual expense of fresh seed from abroad limits production. The need for expansion is shown by the importation of 1,500 tons valued at about £7,500. The production is by Fijians, Indians and Chinese in small quantities.

Kava (*Piper Methysticum*).—The root of this plant mixed with water is used as a beverage throughout the South Seas and large quantities are produced for consumption within the Colony. During recent years Indians and Chinese have planted large areas, but attacks of a disease have caused severe losses in the areas near to Suva.

Indian foodstuffs.—Rice, beans, peas, lentils, maize, bringalls, gourd, chillies, coriander, tamarind, tumeric, ground nuts, mango, guava, potatoes, eschalots, as well as many other foodstuffs of lesser importance, are all grown in Fiji by the Indians. Large quantities are, however, imported, more particularly the spices for curry powder. It is hoped to encourage Indians to grow and to prepare more of these commodities themselves.

It is noticeable that the Indian tends to include more and more Fijian foodstuffs in his diet; and the Fijian is developing a taste for curry and rice.

European vegetables, e.g., cabbage, peas, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, leeks, carrots, parsnips, radish, pumpkins and marrow will, with care, grow well in all parts of the Colony. The production for sale is almost exclusively in the hands of Chinese.

Marketing.

Approved cultivators of sugar-cane have a permanent market at a fixed price with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. Copra has not such a stable value as sugar-cane, but, subject to quality, the producer finds a sale near his home. European merchants control branch stores throughout the Group at which the purchase of copra is regular, and there are a number of small Chinese traders throughout the copra districts who purchase or exchange for goods, dried copra, green copra or whole coconuts.

The cultivation of bananas is restricted to areas in which an organization, under Government supervision, arranges for their purchase at prescribed centres.

Cotton is purchased by Government at fixed prices at ginnery centres.

Hitherto, there has been no organization for the marketing of minor products and the production of many crops suitable for small holders has been neglected.

The merchant houses and small storekeepers are not interested to any extent in such products as native vegetables, maize, Mauritius beans, tobacco, kumalas and rice, consequently those Fijians and Indians who are remote from centres of European settlement experience considerable difficulty in disposing of such products, and a further result is that the local demand is reduced by high prices.

There are many minor products which can be produced in the Colony and for which a considerable local sale should be possible, provided prices are reasonable, and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide an organization which will bridge the gap between the producer and consumer.

Livestock.

Horses or oxen perform practically all the draught work of the cultivation of crops in the Colony. The majority of Indian cultivators keep sufficient milking cows to supply their needs in milk and ghee. Sufficient fat cattle and goats are raised to supply local consumption of beef and goat flesh. The pork market is supplied from local sources. Most of the mutton is imported.

On coconut plantations, cattle and goats assist in keeping weeds and undergrowth down, and form the principal meat supply for the labour. The estimated stock population of the Colony is 68,000 cattle, 19,000 goats and 14,000 horses.

Dairying.

The dairy industry enjoyed a prosperous year in 1938, the factory production of butter reaching record figures. The following are the production figures of the two factories during the past five years:—

Year.	*Butter manufactured.* lb.	*Sold locally.* lb.	*Exported.* lb.	*Converted into ghee.* lb.
1934	560,649	268,383	146,384	145,882
1935	608,201	347,513	27,736	232,952
1936	553,280	362,791	—	190,489
1937	637,259	448,130	—	189,129
1938	614,941	398,150	37,640	179,151

In addition to factory production a considerable, but unascertained, quantity of butter and ghee is made and disposed of by private dairies and by small farmers.

The milk supply of Suva and of certain other towns is obtained from tuberculin-tested cows in registered dairies. One company in the Suva district supplies pasteurized milk in sterilized bottles.

Poultry.

Eggs and table birds are obtainable locally although importations of both are made. Prices are high for an agricultural colony, eggs ranging in price from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per dozen, fowls from 3s. 6d. to 6s. each, and ducks are dearer. Settings of Australorp eggs and of young birds are supplied at a reasonable figure to poultry breeders by the Agricultural Department.

Agricultural Instruction to Fijians and Indians.

This is controlled by an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

PRIMARY INSTRUCTION.

This training is more or less confined to nature study and to work in school gardens. This course is pursued not only at the primary schools, but also at the more advanced Queen Victoria School and at the Teachers' Training College. The Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso goes a step further in specializing in agriculture, and the Government Experimental Stations further still in the training of students. It is from the last-named institutions that recruits are selected for employment as native field instructors of the Agricultural Department.

Recently, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, established a training centre for the instruction of Fijian youths in cane cultivation.

ADULT INSTRUCTION.

As an organized scheme this has been practically confined to the Fijian section of the population, but advice has been freely given to Indians who seek assistance. The Indian is far ahead of the Fijian in agricultural practice. The majority of the Indians are engaged in the cultivation of sugar-cane and, since the adoption of the tenant farmer system, by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, the individual is directly supervised by the trained officers of that Company. Efforts are in operation to settle Fijians on the land in small communal settlements in selected areas where they can be supervised and assisted with the marketing of their produce. Considerable progress has been made, but the difficulties are great owing to the roving disposition of the Fijian, his ease of livelihood, the smallness of the population and the local " kerekere " (borrowing) custom.

Forestry.

A small forest department was constituted during the year by the secondment, in April, of a Conservator of Forests from Malaya. Local conditions were examined, forest areas were explored and the training of the nucleus of a subordinate field staff was put in hand.

Largely owing to the inefficient methods of timber extraction practised by Fijian and Indian workers, the difficult nature of the country, and the low price at which competing timbers can be imported, the Colony continues to depend to a considerable extent on softwoods from Canada and hardwoods from Australia.

Only one sawmill is concerned with both the extraction and conversion of timber: this operates on Crown Land under an agreement carrying with it obligations for the regeneration of the forest and the payment of royalties. Three other mills are dependent for supplies on purchases of logs from casual Fijian and Indian cutters who, by reason of their lack of equipment, confine their operations largely to areas within easy reach of roads and navigable rivers. The amount of timber so cut is not recorded and is not subject to the payment of royalties.

Local timber production is estimated at four million superficial feet. Imported timber amounted to 7,473,446 superficial feet bringing the total local consumption up to approximately 11½ million superficial feet with a value of £150,000.

In the coastal districts firewood is obtained from the Crown mangrove forests. A system of licensing is in force under the control of a European officer in an attempt to avoid the possibility of a fuel shortage by insisting on more efficient methods of utilisation. A survey of the mangrove forests on which the town of Suva (the largest consumer) depends was nearing completion at the close of the year. The outturn of fuel was approximately 20,000 tons (stacked measurement).

Copal, a gum obtained from the Kauri tree (*agathis vitiensis*), and used in the preparation of varnishes, has been exported in increasingly large quantities in recent years. The methods employed by the collectors are crude and inimical to the health of the trees, but the areas over which gum is collected are so large that no measures of control could be introduced at this early stage in the department's history. Exports amounted to 6,506 cwts. with a value of £8,483.

Revenue for the year under review amounted to £1,866 3s. 1d. and expenditure to £2,149 6s. 11d.

Fisheries.

Although fish abound in the waters of the Colony, there is no organized fishing industry. The Fijians are large consumers of fish which are captured in fish fences, constructed of saplings and reeds, and in nets. They consume also large quantities of crabs and prawns. The markets of the large centres of settlement are served by Fijian and Japanese fishermen, but generally fish is difficult to obtain.

Both the green and the hawksbill turtle are found and there is a ready demand for turtle-shell both for local manufacture and for export, which in 1938 amounted to 1,095 lbs.

Trochus shell is found on the reefs of the Colony, but intensive fishing and the collection of immature shell has depleted the supplies. Exports of shell for the year amounted to 140 tons. The collection of trochus is almost entirely in the hands of Fijians.

Manufacturing.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, operates five mills in the Colony, the exports of raw sugar for the year amounting to 134,415 tons valued at £1,338,183.

There are two dairy factories manufacturing butter and ghee.

The Pacific Biscuit Factory, a subsidiary of an Australian firm, produces the whole of the requirements of biscuits, excepting certain fancy lines. A small trade has been developed with Tonga and Samoa, to which territories 165,924 lbs. were exported during the year. Information as to the quantities and values of biscuits disposed of locally is not available.

The extraction of coconut oil and the manufacture of washing soap is carried out by an establishment at Suva which meets practically the whole of the local demand. Sand soap is also produced.

Mining.

During the year, six new prospecting licences aggregating 775 acres were issued, one in the Tavua Mining Area, and five elsewhere in the Colony; 14 licences lapsed or were cancelled during the year; 22 prospector's rights were issued; and three new mining leases, aggregating 130 acres, one in each of the Tavua, Yanawai and Vuda Mining Areas, were also issued.

On the Yanawai Mining Area, mining operations were continued on a slightly larger scale by Mount Kasi Mines, Limited, and 34,305 tons of ore were milled for a recovery of 8,304·35 fine ounces of gold and 396·41 fine ounces of silver. This represents an average recovery of 4·84 dwts. gold and of 0·23 dwts. silver per ton of ore treated. Additional residences, a new dispensary and hospital, native quarters and a communal hall were erected. The average number employed during the year was 315, as follows:—Europeans, 15; persons of mixed descent, 44; Fijians, 226; Indians, 25; and five other nationalities.

In the Tavua Mining Area, increased production was a feature of the year. The new treatment plant of the Emperor Gold Mining Company, Limited, began full-scale operations in January, and during the year 170,023 tons of ore were treated for a recovery of 50,890·41 fine ounces of gold and 5,321·12 fine ounces of silver. This represents a recovery of 5·99 dwts. of gold and 0·62 dwts. of silver per ton of ore treated.

Further residential and other buildings were erected. The interests of Koroere Gold N.L. with the Emperor Gold Mining Company, Limited, were merged during the year. The average number employed on this mine throughout 1938 was 727, comprising 68 Europeans, 77 persons of mixed descent, 555 Fijians, 25 Indians and two of other races.

The Loloma (Fiji) Gold Mines N.L. brought its treatment plant to full capacity early in the year, and production from this mine was 33,048·27 fine ounces of gold and 6,733·94 fine ounces of silver from the milling of 25,420 tons of ore; representing an average recovery of 26·00 dwts. of gold and 5·30 dwts. of silver per ton of ore treated. The number employed during the year averaged 437, comprising 38 Europeans, 33 persons of mixed descent, 355 Fijians and one Indian.

A private venture, operating on "Costello's Block," treated 531 tons of ore and recovered 66·59 fine ounces of gold and 4·1 ounces of silver by puddling and straking, the recovery per ton being 2·51 dwts. of gold and the tailings being stored for further treatment.

A lease of 50 acres was granted to another private venture over a portion of the original "Homeward Bound" area and preparations for the installation of a treatment plant were proceeding at the close of the year.

Fiji Mines Development, Limited, has continued steady development work at depth on its property on the Tavua Mining Area.

On the Vuda Mining Area, the Natalau Gold Prospecting Syndicate was granted a mining lease. A small pilot plant was installed and 280 tons of ore were treated for a recovery of 42·21 fine ounces of gold and 12·09 fine ounces of silver, representing a recovery per ton of 3·01 dwts. gold and 0·86 dwts. silver. The tailings were stacked for further treaement. One European and ten Indians were employed on this mine throughout the year. A larger plant is contemplated.

For the production of lime for metallurgical purposes, the Emperor and Loloma Companies have undertaken a joint lime-burning enterprise at Tau, where a large limestone deposit is located. Production is anticipated early in 1939.

The estimated average number of persons of all races engaged in prospecting and mining during the year was 1,675.

The following statement shows in tabulated form the production from the various centres in the Colony for 1939, and the position of the gold mining industry for previous years:—

COMPARATIVE GOLD PRODUCTION FIGURES.

Year	*Yanawai fine ozs.*	*Tavua fine ozs.*	*Vuda fine ozs.*	*Miscellaneous fine ozs.*	*Total fine ozs.*
1932 ...	311·1	—	—	—	311·1
1933 ...	1,844·2	—	—	—	1,844·2
1934 ...	796·7	134·7	—	—	931·4
1935 ...	1,786·9	4,940·8	—	—	6,727·7
1936 ...	4,024·2	12,930·9	—	—	16,955·1
1937 ...	7,496·5	17,420·5	—	—	24,917·0
1938 ...	8,304·3	84,005·3	42·2	9·8	92,361·6

Customs duty on all imported protective equipment used in mining was reduced at the May Session of the Legislative Council to 15 per cent. on articles of foreign manufacture, those of British manufacture are now admitted free.

Assay fees were reduced to 2s. 6d. per assay at the Government Chemical Laboratory; this reduction resulted in an increase in the number of samples received.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Fiji is primarily an agricultural Colony, but, although a large proportion of food necessary for the native population is grown locally, with continued development of the mining industry in recent years, and consequent temporary divergence of natives from villages to mines, there has been an increase in quantities of foodstuffs imported.

The price of copra fell during 1938, and importations of foodstuffs were affected.

In manufactured articles, apart from importations necessary for the sugar and mining industries, the principal imports are cotton and rayon piece goods. These decreased from £129,622 in 1937 to £112,153 in 1938. Merchants became overstocked in 1937 and there are indications that these stocks have not yet been liquidated.

Sugar is the principal export and represents 52·78 per cent. of the export trade and 54·42 of domestic exports. The export in 1938 was 134,415 tons as compared with 129,693 in 1937. Production is controlled under the International Agreement regarding the Regulation of Production and Marketing of sugar.

Three gold mines came into full production early in 1938 and exports increased to £701,272 as compared with £166,115 in 1937. The value of gold exported is 28·52 per cent. of the total domestic exports.

The following summary shows the value of imports into Fiji during the years 1934 to 1938:—

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO FIJI BY CLASSES DURING THE YEARS 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	*Class I. Food, drink and tobacco.*	*Class II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.*	*Class III. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.*	*Class IV. Miscellaneous and unclassified.*	*Total merchandise.*	*Bullion and Specie.*	*Total imports (including Bullion and Specie).*
	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.	£F.
1934	222,308	40,018	698,008	24,675	985,009	10,195	995,204
1935	284,500	46,393	887,154	25,888	1,243,935	13,352	1,257,287
1936	395,073	59,825	1,009,592	30,893	1,495,383	6,471	1,501,854
1937	406,990	74,135	1,231,072	36,874	1,749,071	11,673	1,760,744
1938	368,905	73,757	1,189,541	37,213	1,669,416	6,021	1,675,437

The following table gives the values of imports, exports, and total trade for the past five years:—

Year.	*Imports.* £F.	*Domestic Exports.* £F.	*Re-Exports.* £F.	*Total Trade.* £F.
1934	995,204	1,341,678	114,777	2,451,659
1935	1,257,287	1,735,005	85,391	3,077,683
1936	1,501,854	2,023,496	111,931	3,637,281
1937	1,760,744	2,121,920	91,737	3,974,401
1938	1,675,437	2,458,797	76,232	4,210,466

The following table gives the percentage of the total imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the past five years:—

Total Imports.	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1937.* *Per cent.*	*1938.* *Per cent.*
British Empire	79·45	81·78	83·38	82·41	82·14
Foreign Countries	18·16	16·26	14·68	15·57	15·82

(Balance imported through Parcels Post.)

Countries of Origin.					
United Kingdom...	36·45	39·45	35·07	34·24	33·12
Australia	26·24	24·45	28·03	29·22	29·99
Canada	4·55	4·52	4·45	5·97	6·09
India	6·39	6·90	6·13	5·21	6·32
New Zealand ...	3·45	3·62	3·97	3·23	3·07
Japan	2·99	3·15	3·34	3·58	2·54
United States ...	8·67	7·58	6·06	6·86	7·72

The following table gives the percentage of domestic products exported to the British Empire and Foreign countries during the past five years:—

Domestic Exports.	*1934.* *Per cent.*	*1935.* *Per cent.*	*1936.* *Per cent.*	*1937.* *Per cent.*	*1938.* *Per cent.*
British Empire ...	92·89	88·78	82·82	84·85	91·84
Foreign Countries	7·11	11·22	17·18	15·15	8·16
Countries of Destination.					
United Kingdom...	47·79	50·65	39·27	39·74	33·73
Canada	35·05	26·30	27·02	28·02	22·46
Australia	3·37	6·51	10·90	11·48	31·19
New Zealand ...	6·14	4·80	5·19	5·10	4·08
Europe	5·03*	5·28*	9·02*	5·09*	4·91*
United States ...	·80	2·34	4·39	6·88	3·07

* Consists principally of copra exported to optional European ports, ultimate destination unknown. Gold accounts for the increase in the percentage exported in Australia.

The following table gives the quantity and value of principal imports for the past two years:—

	1937.			*1938.*	
	Quantity.		*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£F.		£F.
Drapery	Value	—	228,845	—	182,927
Flour and Sharps ...	Tons	9,337	101,035	10,018	75,926
Hardware	Value	—	91,426	—	91,369
Iron and Steel... ...	Tons	3,023	49,505	2,177	38,238
Machinery	Value	—	209,343	—	173,895
Motor Vehicles ...	No.	441	61,570	437	66,021
Oil	Gals.	3,694,538	95,095	4,482,593	103,762
Timber	S. ft.	6,741,898	48,117	7,473,446	50,738

Principal supplying Countries of above Commodities.

		1937.		*1938.*	
Country.		*Quantity.*	*Value.* £F.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £F.
Drapery.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	133,264	—	102,088
Hong Kong ...	...	—	15,309	—	10,270
India	...	—	12,628	—	21,034
Japan	...	—	52,374	—	32,973
Flour and Sharps.					
Australia	tons	9,336	101,035	10,005	75,843
Hardware.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	48,595	—	44,805
Australia	...	—	25,396	—	27,382
United States ...	...	—	6,865	—	7,230
Iron and Steel.					
United Kingdom ...	tons	1,845	33,115	1,062	22,528
Australia	tons	915	13,848	1,075	15,158
Machinery.					
United Kingdom ...	...	—	73,947	—	73,829
Australia	...	—	117,594	—	69,728
United States ...	...	—	14,401	—	27,419
Motor Vehicles.					
United Kingdom ...	No.	150	19,462	203	29,862
Canada	No.	233	32,412	162	24,806
United States ...	No.	58	9,696	65	10,745
Oils.					
United Kingdom ...	Gals.	62,407	7,408	63,530	6,898
Netherlands East Indies	Gals.	1,995,147	33,353	2,148,703	39,822
United States ...	Gals.	1,546,083	40,101	2,051,138	37,447
Timber.					
Australia	S. ft.	983,015	13,943	884,366	13,427
Canada	S. ft.	5,716,662	32,638	6,554,396	35,935

The following table shows the quantity and value of principal domestic exports for the past two years:—

		1937.		*1938.*	
		Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
			£F.		£F.
Sugar	tons	129,693	1,388,681	134,415	1,338,183
Copra	tons	30,001	407,354	33,475	270,915
Gold	ozs.	21,407	166,115	89,354	701,272
Bananas ...	bunches	326,777	80,071	314,925	73,578

Principal Countries Supplied.

Sugar.					
United Kingdom	tons	71,456	786,617	75,296	779,280
Canada	tons	57,002	587,979	57,983	548,067
Copra.					
United Kingdom	tons	3,783	51,731	6,071	46,158
Australia ...	tons	4,175	53,454	4,913	38,183
Europe	tons	8,027*	104,003*	13,484*	116,298*
United States ...	tons	9,976	139,714	7,950	63,407

* Exported to optional European ports, ultimate destination unknown.

Gold.					
Australia ...	ozs.	21,407	166,115	89,354	701,272
Bananas.					
New Zealand	bunches	300,659	73,658	299,755	70,343

The following tables give details of import and export of coin and notes, the values given being face values. The importation of coin from the United Kingdom represents almost wholly Fiji coin minted in the United Kingdom which came into use in 1934; the exports consist principally of coin returned in consequence of the introduction of a Fiji coinage.

The notes imported are Fiji currency notes printed in the United Kingdom for circulation in Fiji; they are not accounted for in the returns and no export of notes during the past five years has been reported.

COIN.

	Imports.			*Exports.*	
	Country of Origin.	*Value.* £F		*Exported to.*	*Value.* £F
		1934.			
Silver	United Kingdom	10,000	Silver	United Kingdom	31,680
	Australia ...	7		Australia ...	5,060
				Ships' Stores ...	700
		1935.			
Silver	United Kingdom	18,000	Silver	United Kingdom	16,360
				Australia ...	1,570
				New Zealand ...	1,291
				Tonga	500
		1936.			
Silver	United Kingdom	10,000	Silver	United Kingdom	46,645
Nickel	United Kingdom	1,000		Australia ...	1,294
				New Zealand ...	771
				Tonga	100

1937.

	Imports. *Country of Origin.*	*Value.*		*Exports.* *Exported to.*	*Value.*
		£F			£F
Silver	United Kingdom	11,598	Silver	United Kingdom	15,584
				Australia ...	747
				New Zealand ...	285
				Tonga	1,119
			Nickel	United States of America ...	9

1938.

Silver	United Kingdom	5,000	Silver	Australia ...	411
Nickel	United Kingdom	1,000		New Zealand	2,496
				United Kingdom ...	3,156

IMPORTATION OF NOTES.

From	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	£F	£F	£F	£F	£F
United Kingdom...	514,965	60,000	85,000	30,000	415,000

Tourist Traffic.

Although there was no decrease in the numbers of tourists visiting Fiji during 1938, the increase anticipated did not eventuate. This was due to the inability of shipping companies to guarantee return bookings for a number of prospective visitors from New Zealand and Australia. During the best months of the tourist season unusually heavy through traffic was experienced by vessels from Vancouver and San Francisco, and this traffic considerably restricted the berths available from Suva. This increased traffic is considered to be due partly to the fact that much of the tourist traffic to the Far East has been diverted to New Zealand and Australia. While this situation continues Fiji tourist traffic will be restricted to present levels and may be further restricted. At present there are no indications of shipping facilities being increased. It is estimated that during 1938 17,580 people passed through the port, exclusive of ships engaged on tourist cruises. Figures supplied by the shipping companies concerned show that 5,001 people arrived on ships engaged in tourist cruises and staying in port from one to two days. It is estimated that 1,390 people arrived to stay a week or longer.

VIII.—LABOUR.

The principal industries in the Colony regularly employing labour are the mining industry, the sugar industry, and the copra industry.

The average number of persons of various races engaged in the mining industry during 1938 was as follows:—

Europeans	163
Persons of Mixed Descent ...	166
Fijians	1,270
Indians	69
Others	7
	1,675

Fijians constituted 75·9 per cent. of the total mining labour as compared with 78·6 per cent. in 1937. A greater number of Europeans were employed, the percentages being 7·3 in 1937 and 9·7 in 1938.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company engage each year a large number of Indians as mill labour for the crushing season, which usually begins in June and ends in December. The following is the approximate number engaged for the 1938 crushing season at the Company's five mills:—

Nausori, Rewa...	120 Indians.
Penang, Ra	105 Indians. 19 Fijians.
Rarawai, Ba	290 Indians. 20 Fijians.
Lautoka	334 Indians. 20 Fijians.
Labasa	148 Indians.

Approximately 150 labourers were signed on in the country districts for the various copra plantations, and in Suva some 250 Fijians were engaged before the Resident Magistrate. The average rate of pay is £14 a year with rations, housing, medical attention, and, in some cases, clothing and tobacco.

Indians are also employed in gangs for cane-cutting and other field work during the sugar crushing season, Fijians are usually employed as wharf labour, and both Indians and Fijians are employed on constructional and road work by the Public Works Department. Although a heavy works programme has been carried out during 1938 there has been no shortage of unskilled labour. There has been some shortage, however, in the more specialized trades, such as plastering and plumbing, but the construction of the new Government Offices in Suva, for example, has proved a valuable training ground for semi-skilled labour in such trades.

Fijian Labour.

The local market price of copra varied between £7 and £5 during the year; these prices did not improve plantation labour conditions.

In 1938 continued employment on a large scale was found for Fijians in the new Government Offices. Employment at the gold mines is popular with Fijians, who are attracted by the conditions as regards wages, food and other amenities at the mines.

All recruitment of labour is voluntary. Each Fijian is a member of a land-owning unit, and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands; he is capable of supporting himself and his family on the products of his lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for him to work for wages, and generally speaking he only does so in order to gain money for some specific object. The majority of Fijians support themselves from the products of their lands, and those who elect to work under contract of service usually return to their villages on completion of the contract. There is, therefore, no labouring class of Fijians dependent solely upon wages they earn. The constant change in the personnel of the labourers obviates any serious interference with the native social system and helps in preventing the growth of a class of Fijians divorced from tribal associations and dependent for their livelihood on the labour market. These conditions also provide a safeguard for the proper treatment of labourers under contract of service.

The employment of casual labourers is mostly confined to the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. A limited number of Fijians are employed in the commercial houses. The number of Fijians employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers and firemen is small. The employment of Fijians as skilled workers is limited, not only by the demand for such work but by their ability to compete with members of other races. Most of the small inter-insular sailing vessels are manned by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master.

Indian Labour.

During 1938 there has been no unemployment amongst Indians, and the continued prosperity in the main industries, combined with extensive building and other constructional work undertaken by Government and private firms and individuals, caused the supply of labour to be barely sufficient to meet the demand. Most of the work which gives employment to Indian labourers is seasonal, but wages are supplemented by the proceeds from land holdings.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages of Fijians.

The wages paid to Fijians in the mining industry vary from 14s. a week for unskilled labour to 25s. a week for skilled labour. Quarters and rations are provided.

Wharf labour in Suva receive 3s. 6d. a day with three meals, and 6d. an hour overtime worked between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. Those brought to Suva from neighbouring districts are provided with quarters. Wharf labour gangs for Lautoka are usually sent from Suva. In the sugar centres the wages for Fijian mill labour is similar to those paid to the Indian labourers.

Fijians engaged under contracts of service receive an average of from £14 to £15 a year with rations, housing, medical attention and in some cases certain extras, such as clothing and tobacco.

Wages of Indians.

Wage conditions have not changed to any great extent during the past year and the various standards are as follows: —

> Unskilled labour, Suva, 2s. 6d. a day—country districts varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day. In the cane areas labour is seasonal for mill workers and cane cutters. Mill labourers are paid on an average 1s. 11d. a day of 12 hours shift or 1s. 9d. a day of 9½ hours shift, with a bonus of 7d. a day during the crushing season, and 1s. 9d. a day out of the crushing season with a bonus of 1s. 6d. a week. Bonuses are paid only for a full week's work. These workers enjoy certain privileges in the purchase of provisions. Cane cutters receive 1s. 8d. a day and 6d. a week bonus, also bonuses from growers which may raise their earnings to 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day. Punjabi immigrants are reported to earn as much as 6s. a day during the cutting season. Casual labour is in firm demand during the crushing season.

Public Works Department Labour.

The number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, employed by the Public Works Department and the Road Boards was 2,778. Of these, 1,698 were employed in the Suva District and 1,080 in the various country districts. The rates of pay for unskilled labour vary from 2s. 3d. to 3s. per day. There are no standard rates for skilled workmen. Each is paid according to his ability.

The majority of the carpenters and boat-builders are Half-Castes, though a few Fijians and Indians have attained proficiency in these trades.

The following figures indicate the various rates paid to skilled and semi-skilled workmen: —

> Carpenters and joiners and boat-builders, 3s. 6d. to £1 3s. 6d. per day.
>
> Mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermakers, etc., 3s. 6d. to £1 5s. per day.
>
> Apprentices, 10s. to £2 10s. per week.

Painters, 3s. 6d. per day.
Sirdars, £4 10s. to £10 per month.
Lorrydrivers 4s. 6d. to 6s. per day.
Tractor and roller drivers, 10s. to 18s. per day.

Cost of Living.

The tariff in hotels varies from 10s. to 17s. 6d. a day, or from £9 to £20 a month. Boarding-house terms average about £7 to £9 a month.

In Suva and Levuka house rents vary from £4 to £8 a month unfurnished, and £8 to £10 furnished. Furnished houses are scarce and usually are only available for limited periods. In country districts houses are almost unprocurable.

The usual number of servants employed is between one and three, comprising a cook-general; or cook and house-boy; or cook, house-boy and a garden-boy or nurse-girl. Cooks earn £4 to £7 a month and food, others £2 to £4 a month and food. Indians are usually employed as domestic servants. Fijian servants are a little cheaper, but less efficient.

Education.

Primary education can be obtained in Levuka, and primary and secondary education in Suva in Government Schools. Tuition fees are as follows:—

	Children of Ratepayers.	*Children of Non-Ratepayers.*
Primary	Free.	£2 2s. a year.
Secondary	£6 a year.	£7 10s. a year.

A charge of £50 a year is made for boarding in the hostels attached to the Suva Grammar Schools, with reductions for two or more children of the same family. Many Europeans send their children to Australia or New Zealand, where the average cost of education is £150 a year.

Medical Fees.

The usual fee charged by a private medical practitioner is 10s. 6d. a visit. The fees charged in Government hospitals are 6s. a day for the public wards, and 10s. 6d. a day for private wards. Operation fees in these hospitals range from £1 1s. to £10 10s. Medicines and medical appliances are expensive. Government officers receive free medical treatment.

Sports and Social Clubs.

Entrance fees to social clubs range from £2 2s. to £10 10s., and yearly subscriptions from £2 2s. to £4 4s. The entrance fees for tennis and golf clubs are from £1 1s. to £2 2s. and the yearly subscription fees £1 1s. to £4 4s.

Holidays.

For health reasons it is advisable that Europeans should periodically visit temperate countries. The average return passage rates are as follows:—

New Zealand, £12 to £25.
Australia, £25 to £50.
England, £90 to £160.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Historical.

The history of native education is allied with that of the various Mission Societies. The Methodist Mission arrived in 1835, the Roman Catholic Mission followed in 1844, the Anglican Mission in 1870 and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in 1889. The early missionaries reduced the language to writing, published a Fijian-English Dictionary and printed a translation of the New Testament. They established schools throughout the Colony and the high percentage of literacy is mainly due to their efforts.

The Education Ordinance of 1916 established a Department of Education and a Board of Education. The latter was given power to register, to classify schools and teachers, and to regulate a system of grants-in-aid.

As a result of the recommendations of the Education Commission, 1926, the Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Director of Education, an Assistant Director, and two Inspectors of Schools. The Education Ordinance of 1916 was repealed and replaced by Ordinance No. 1 of 1929. This Ordinance reconstituted the Board of Education and gave it greater control over the registration and classification of schools and teachers, the instruction to be given, the standards to be maintained, and the qualifications and number of teachers required for various grades of schools.

Grants to registered schools are based on the average attendance of children of school age (6-14) for the three months preceding the 1st July in the previous year, and on the grade of the teachers employed. Grants vary from £3 per head in a school with an average attendance of 20 pupils, to £1 18s. in a school with an average attendance of 230.

The Board has power to direct that a particular school shall be registered for the education of children of a particular race, and schools have accordingly been registered for Europeans, Fijians, Indians, Chinese and Melanesians; a number of schools, usually in the towns, enrol children of all races.

In 1936, Mr. A. I. Mayhew, C.M.G., C.I.E., Joint Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies, after visiting the Colony, submitted a report which was adopted in principle by Legislative Council.

European Education.

There are 16 schools for Europeans or part-Europeans; four are Government schools, five are controlled by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, one by the Methodist Mission and three by local committees. All of these are primary schools and three (two Government and one Roman Catholic) have secondary departments, which prepare pupils for the Cambridge Local and University Entrance examinations. Manual instruction for boys, and cooking for girls, are included in the curriculum. A commercial course is given in the two schools in Suva for girls—the Girls' Grammar School and St. Joseph's Convent.

European children in isolated parts of the Colony may be enrolled in the Government correspondence classes, and 41 pupils were enrolled during the year. The fees are £2 a year and books and stationery are supplied at cost price.

Under a scheme of co-operation between the Education Department of New Zealand and the Government of Fiji, the three Government Schools are staffed by New Zealand teachers, who serve as a rule from two to six years in Fiji. The teachers in the Colonial Sugar Refining Company schools are usually recruited in New Zealand. The syllabus of instruction in these schools is similar to that prescribed in New Zealand. At about the age of 13 many children leave Fiji to attend schools abroad, the greater number going to New Zealand, some to Australia and a few to England.

Half of the net cost of three of the Government schools for Europeans is met from a special education rate levied in the towns of Suva and Levuka, in which the schools are situated. Children of the owners or occupiers of houses on which education rate is paid are exempt from tuition fees in the primary classes and pay £6 a year in the secondary classes. Others pay £2 2s. in the primary and £7 10s. a year in the secondary classes. All fees are reduced by one-third when two or more members of a family attend.

The Government maintains two hostels in Suva, one for boys and the other for girls. The fee is £50 a year with liberal reductions for two or more members of a family. Hostels are also maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission in Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. There were 620 boys and 567 girls on the roll of the 16 schools.

Some European children are also enrolled in schools for children of all races. The total number of European children in all schools is 1,622.

Fijian Education.

There are 346 schools, including seven Government schools for Fijians. Practically every Fijian child has access to a school of some kind although many of them are not very efficient. Grants-in-aid were paid to 144 primary schools, and the number will increase as more certificated teachers are trained. In these grant-in-aid schools Fijian is the medium of instruction in Classes 1 to 4. In addition to the usual school subjects English may be taught for a limited time per day. The seven Government schools are residential. In six of them, known as Provincial Schools, the syllabus is that of the assisted primary schools, except that more attention is paid to English, which becomes the medium of instruction in the higher classes. Each school maintains a farm and at least 12 hours a week are devoted to practical agriculture.

The Fijians contribute £4,410 a year towards the maintenance of these schools. Each area selects pupils in proportion to its annual contributions, and in many areas the competition is so keen that it has been possible to select the brighter pupils from the local schools. Pupils usually enrol at about the age of 12 and remain at school to the end of the year in which they attain the age of 18.

The Queen Victoria Memorial School for Fijians is maintained by the Government, a fee of £6 a year being charged. Six exhibitions, tenable for three years, are awarded annually on the results of a competitive examination. Other pupils are required to pass an entrance examination. The roll in 1938 was 84. The course is similar to that in Provincial schools, but owing to the more rigorous selection of pupils the standard is higher. Pupils of this school are prepared for admission to the Government service, the Teachers' Training Schools and the Central Medical School.

Ten Fijian girls were given bursaries entitling them to free board and tuition at Ballantine Memorial School. A grant of £150 was paid to a Fijian studying dentistry at Otago University, New Zealand.

The total number of Fijians in all schools that forwarded returns was 19,580, of whom 10,914 were boys and 8,666 girls.

Indian Education.

In 1938 there were 80 schools for Indians, including seven Government schools. Of these 66 were assisted by grants-in-aid. In the majority of these schools Hindustani is the medium of instruction in Classes I to IV, but in those especially established for South Indian children Tamil is used. In addition to the usual school subjects English is taught. Indian boys may proceed to the Secondary Department of the Natabua Indian School or the Marist Brothers Secondary School, Suva, where they can be prepared for the University Entrance examination. The standard of all schools is improving.

A scholarship entitling the holder to free board and tuition in the Secondary Department, Natabua, was awarded annually.

Ten bursaries were given to Indian girls tenable at Dudley House School, Suva.

Grants totalling £193 2s. 4d. (Fiji) were paid to assist in the higher education of selected Indians. One girl and one youth attended the Teachers' Training School, Auckland, New Zealand, another the Teachers' Training School, Allahabad, and another Islamia College, Lahore.

There were 7,968 Indian pupils, 5,643 boys and 2,325 girls in all schools that forwarded returns in 1938.

Training of Teachers.

There are three training institutions (one Government and two Mission) for male teachers. Both Indians and Fijians are enrolled in two of these and in the other Fijians only. The course is for two years and students are selected by a competitive examination. Government assistance was given towards the training of 71 students, who receive free board and tuition and £6 a year pocket-money.

In 1938 special grants were paid to two Methodist Mission girls' schools to enable them to train Fijian and Indian female teachers, of whom there were 21. In addition to these a number of girls were employed as probationers in girls' schools.

There are five classes of teachers' certificates. To be eligible for a first-class certificate a teacher must hold the Bachelor's degree of an approved university or its equivalent. For the lowest or fifth class the standard is approximately that of a normal English child of 14.

Technical Schools.

The Davuilevu Technical School, controlled by the Methodist Mission, gives technical training, mainly in carpentry, to Fijian boys. A similar school is maintained by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Ovalau.

A Domestic Science Centre was established by Government in Suva in 1938 and was attended by 215 pupils of all races.

Navuso Agricultural School.

This school was established by the Methodist Mission in 1924 on an estate of 830 acres and provides a course in farming and dairying for 68 young Fijian men. A Government grant of £400 was paid in 1938.

Other Schools.

Separate departmental schools are controlled by the Medical, Agricultural and Police Departments for the training of natives.

Finances.

The gross amount expended from general revenue in 1938 on educational services was approximately £59,000.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Mail communication within the Colony is by means of vessels subsidized by Government, by motor road services, by mail carriers and by itinerant vessels.

The motor vessels *Yanawai* and *Matafele* run between Suva, Levuka, Savu Savu, Deloi (Buca Bay), Rabi and the Taveuni coast twice monthly. Once every quarter the latter vessel proceeds to Labasa and to Rotuma.

The motor vessel *Adi Rewa* runs between Suva, Levuka, Nabouwalu, Dreketi and Labasa twice monthly, calling at certain small places *en route* either on the inward or outward journey.

A subsidized cutter conveys mails between Taveuni and Deloi (Buca Bay) once weekly.

Mails are conveyed by motor vehicle from Suva to Nausori, Naduruloulou, Korovou, Nanukuloa, Ellington, Raki Raki, Tavua, Ba and Lautoka and return daily except Sundays, and from Lautoka to Nadi and Nadroga and return five times weekly. There is also a motor mail service three times weekly between Nausori, Korovou and Vunidawa.

Carriers are chiefly used on Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kadavu, between post offices on those islands. The services run once weekly.

External communication is provided by the British vessels *Aorangi* and *Niagara* of the Canadian-Australasian Line, to which Company a subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid, and by the American vessels *Mariposa* and *Monterey* of the Matson Navigation Company. The former vessels call at Suva, once in every four weeks, on their voyages in each direction between Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and Vancouver, and the latter, once in every four weeks, on their voyages between Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Pago Pago, Honolulu, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The *Matua* provides a four-weekly cargo and passenger service between Auckland, Rarotonga, Nukualofa, Apia and Suva. Direct steamers from London to Suva, via Panama, arrive at intervals of approximately six weeks and occasional calls are made by vessels from Australia and New Zealand travelling to ports in the United Kingdom, via Panama. Calls are also made at fairly regular intervals by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's vessels *Tambua, Rona* and *Fiona*.

Telephone communication is available between Suva, Nausori, Naduruloulou, Tailevu and Vunidawa; and by a new line between Suva and Navua, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Nadarivatu and Ra. This completes the circuit of the island of Viti Levu. Telephone exchange areas are Suva, Lautoka, Ba, Nadi, Tavua, Levuka, Nausori and Navua, and rural party lines are maintained on Taveuni (40 miles), and in the Savu Savu district on the south-east coast of Vanua Levu.

Wireless stations, operated by Government, are situated at Suva, Lautoka, Rotuma, Levuka, Taveuni, Labasa and Savusavu. Wireless telephone communication exists between Levuka and the Central Leper Hospital at Makogai.

Telegraphic communication beyond the Colony is provided by submarine cable operated by Cable and Wireless Limited, and by wireless from the Suva station, operated by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, with the principal groups in the Western Pacific and also with Honolulu and Sydney.

Roads.

The new road from Suva to Sigatoka, begun in 1935, was completed in June, 1938, at a total cost of £138,000. The new section which is 82 miles in length forms the last link in the circuit of Viti Levu—a distance of 320 miles.

The total mileage of motorable roads in the Colony is 653, in addition there are some 1,600 miles of bridle tracks.

Tramways.

The only railway in Fiji consists of some 380 miles of 2-ft. gauge track owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. This consists of three unconnected portions, one of which is approximately 220 miles in length. One of the terms on which the concession was granted to the Company for the construction of this line was that a train for the free conveyance of passengers should be run from end to end once or twice a week according to the season on a schedule approved by the Government. The railway is used for the transportation of cane to the various mills, and between 40 and 50 locomotives are normally in service.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department during the year was approximately £330,874 which was made up as follows:—

	£
Personal Emoluments	18,621
Public Works	120,307
Public Works Extraordinary	101,395
Loan Advance account	58,395
Miscellaneous...	32,156
	£330,874

Corresponding figures for the previous five years are as follows:—

	£
1933	148,155
1934	190,718
1935	247,369
1936	240,892
1937	312,039

The Director of Public Works has his headquarters in Suva, the execution of the work being normally divided into three branches under the District Engineer, Suva, the District Engineer, Lautoka, and the Mechanical Engineer. At the present time the construction of certain buildings, however, is in charge of the Loan Works Architect who is responsible to the Director of Public Works.

A heavy programme of building construction was carried out during the year amongst which may be mentioned:

	£
The New Government Buildings estimated to cost ...	176,000
Nurses' Home, Colonial War Memorial Hospital–estimated to cost	12,750
Children's Ward, Colonial War Memorial Hospital–estimated to cost	5,000
Laundry, Colonial War Memorial Hospital–estimated to cost	17,200
Health Office, Suva	5,378
Police Station and Barracks, Tavua	6,400

Some of these buildings were not completed by the end of the year.

Water Supplies.

A start was made on extensions to the pumping station at Suva estimated to cost £11,700, and on a new supply for Labasa estimated to cost £8,500.

Harbour Works.

Investigations were made, and plans and estimates were prepared for a deep-water wharf with Customs Shed at Namoli, Lautoka. Owing to the difficult nature of the site the estimated cost is high, amounting to £120,000. The scheme is receiving further consideration. Work was started on a deep-water wharf at Vatia on the North Coast of Viti Levu to meet the shipping requirements of the gold mining industry. The mole was well in hand at the end of the year.

Miscellaneous.

Orders were placed in Hong Kong for an administrative vessel costing £60,000 to replace the R.C.S. *Pioneer,* and the steel work for a new Public Works Department workboat was ordered from the Clyde.

The Mau Quarry was opened up and a crushing plant installed at a cost of £16,000. Operations commenced in May.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various District Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1875, declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

The Supreme Court consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice. There is a Registrar and a staff of assistants.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by Sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall, within the Colony, have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and *nisi prius,* with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England. It is a Court of Equity, and has, within the Colony, the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and all the powers and authorities of the Lord High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and, under an Order in Council dated the 10th March, 1894, an Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court was also established.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the

Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting at the Central Criminal Court. These sessions are held at Suva every third month. The Court also goes on Circuit at regular intervals each year.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875,* by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused, or one of them, or the person against whom the crime or offence has been committed, or one of them, is a native or a person of Asiatic origin or descent, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit to order a jury. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In jury cases, the members of the jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a majority verdict of not less than five to two. Special provision is made, however, in an Order in Council dated 15th September, 1911, for the trial of accused persons at Lautoka, wherein it is provided, *inter alia,* that any cause triable at the Central Criminal Court by a jury shall be triable in the Circuit Court by the Chief Justice with four assessors.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice; in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. With certain exceptions male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English, are liable to be called as jurymen and assessors.

In capital cases, sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice. It is laid down in Section 36 of Ordinance 6 of 1875 that the Chief Justice shall forward to the Governor a copy of his notes of evidence taken at the trial with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor, after considering the report in Executive Council, communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases issues either a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted or a pardon.

On the Civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony, and is governed in its practice by the

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* Cf. Ordinance No. 16 of 1932.

Rules of the Supreme Court, 1933, which adopt, with certain modifications, the Rules of the Supreme Court of England. The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other Rules, the chief of which are:—The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890, Admission of Barristers and Solicitors Rules, 1883, and Divorce Rules, 1933.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Term beginning on 1st October, Easter Term on the 1st March, and Trinity Term commencing on the Monday following Whitsun week.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country districts presided over by the District Commissioners and a Resident Magistrate to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva by a Resident Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the Criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the Civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims of value less than £50.

District Commissioners and Resident Magistrates exercise Criminal jurisdiction and also Civil jurisdiction, as Commissioners, within the limits of the magisterial districts to which they are appointed and in the case of Resident Magistrates within their jurisdiction. The Resident Magistrate, Lautoka, presides over Courts in five districts. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is governed by Ordinance No. 22 of 1934. Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in Civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by the Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The most recent edition of these Regulations was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations, are of two kinds. First, there are the Provincial Courts, composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate, and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives, and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for two months, and in Civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

There were 63 criminal cases (comprising 95 counts) heard at the sessions during 1938. The indictments comprised the following charges:—

Murder	3
Manslaughter	4
Carnal knowledge	7
Bestiality and unnatural offences	3
Wounding and assault	7
Bigamy	1
Horse and cattle stealing	13
Larceny	4
Embezzlement	1
Forgery and falsification of accounts ...	3
Breaking and entering	6
Arson	2
Dangerous driving	1
Interfering with Crown Witness	1
Rape	3
Miscellaneous	4
Total	63

Sixty writs and 24 petitions and summonses were issued in the Civil Division at the Central Registry, composed as follows:—

Actions for recovery of moneys lent	22
Moneys due under Bills of Sale, Mortgage, Liens, etc.	1
Goods sold and delivered	12
Moneys due on accounts	7
Actions for recovery of possession of land	8
Actions for recovery of rent	2
Actions for damages	5
Breach of contract	1
Specific performance	6
Habeas Corpus	1
Originating Summonses	7
Summonses and Petitions under Land (Transfer and Registration) Ordinance 1933	1
Admission of Barristers	2
Miscellaneous	9
	84

Twenty-eight petitions were filed in the Divorce Court in which four European and 24 Indians were concerned. There were 53 petitions for divorce by native Fijians and Rotumans.

Thirty-nine grants of probate, 19 Letters of Administration and 24 orders to reseal Colonial and other grants were made in the Probate jurisdiction. The gross value of the estates concerned in these grants was £234,526 9s. Seven bankruptcy petitions came before the Bankruptcy Court. There were two applications for admission as barrister and solicitor during the year. There are now 21 European and four Indian practitioners in the Colony.

Five civil appeals and 24 criminal appeals were entered for hearing.

A comparative table of cases heard in the various divisions of the Supreme Court from 1934 to 1938 is given below:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Civil	97	119	114	85	84
Divorce	22	26	33	6	28
Native Divorce	73	85	85	73	52
Criminal	45	44	33	58	63
Bankruptcy	2	10	6	3	7
Civil Appeal	—	—	6	1	5
Criminal Appeal	9	8	19	17	24
Grants of Probate, etc. ...	101	87	90	102	82

Police.

COMPOSITION.

The Fiji Police is recruited from Fijians and Indians; the majority of the Indian members of the Force are Fiji born. There are 18 European and three non-European Officers.

STRENGTH.

The authorised strength of the Force on 31st December, 1938, was:—

OFFICERS.	
(*a*) *Europeans.*	
Commissioner of Police	1
Deputy-Commissioner of Police	1
Superintendents	2
Assistant Superintendents	4
Inspectors	10
(*b*) *Non-Europeans.*	
Sub-Inspectors	3
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND CONSTABLES.	
Fijians.	
Non-Commissioned officers	32
Constables	110
Recruits	15
Indians.	
Non-Commissioned officers	16
Constables	73
Recruits	10

TRAINING.

Recruits undergo a training course, of three to seven months, before they are passed out as constables.

There are 19 detachments of Police throughout Fiji. In those districts where no European Police Officer is posted, the Police detachments are under the supervision of the District Commissioner.

Expenditure.

The total cost of the Force during 1938 was £31,168 18s. 7d.: a rate of under 3s. per head of population.

Crime.

The number of persons prosecuted for offences during the year was:—

Offences against the person	237
Offences against property	452
Other offences: Revenue Laws, etc. ...	840

Committed for Trial in the Supreme Court:—

Offences against the person	46
Offences against property	62
Other offences	4

Traffic.

The registration and licensing of motor vehicles and motor-drivers throughout Fiji is carried out by the Police.

The total number of motor vehicles registered for 1938 was 2,118, made up as follows:—

Motor cars for private use	852
Public cars, Taxicabs, etc.	334
Lorries for private use	423
Public charabancs	418
Motor cycles	91

Seven hundred and thirty-four persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance.

Prisons.

The control of prisoners is vested in the Superintendent of Prisons, who is also in charge of the Suva Gaol. This gaol is a modern building, prisoners being confined in buildings of brick and concrete with separate cells having adequate ventilation and electric light.

Vocational Training.—Tin-smithing, black-smithing, tailoring, awning and canvas works, carpentry and baking are taught under the direct supervision of European overseers.

Health of Prisoners.—The gaol infirmary is modern and well equipped and is in charge of an Indian Medical Practitioner who is supervised by a European medical officer. The health of prisoners during the year has been good.

Religious Instruction.—Prisoners are given instruction according to their religions.

Juvenile Offenders.—Juvenile offenders are detained at the Government Experimental Farm which is situated about nine miles from Suva. A European overseer, under the direction of the Superintendent of Places of Detention, is in charge. A regular course of elementary study, physical drill and a certain amount of agricultural training and building construction, is doing much to turn these young offenders into useful citizens. There is a Board of Visitors.

CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS.

First Class—Debtors, persons confined for contempt, persons committed under civil process, or failure to find sureties to keep the peace.

Second Class—Prisoners awaiting trial or under remand.

Third Class—Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only.

Fourth Class—Prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or imprisoned with hard labour.

Staff.—The Gaoler and Overseers at the Central gaol are Europeans as also are the Superintendents in charge of Provincial gaols. The subordinate staff consists of Fijians and Indians.

Corporal Punishment.—During the year there were two cases of corporal punishment.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1938 of which the following are the principal:—

The Lighting Control Ordinance empowers the Governor-in-Council to make regulations to provide for the total or partial cessation of lighting on occasions of emergency or public danger.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Ordinance sets up a Board of Control for the purposes of control and censorship of cinematograph films and posters.

The Petroleum Ordinance which replaces the Petroleum Ordinance 1918 and the Oil-Storage Ordinance 1915 follows modern legislation on the subject. It provides for the importation or exportation of petroleum only at or from a declared harbour or other duly appointed place. Masters of vessels carrying petroleum are required to notify the Harbour Master that petroleum is carried and the vessels are to proceed to an anchorage directed by the Harbour Master. Modern definitions of the different classes of petroleum are included in the Ordinance. Officers of constabulary are given powers of entry and inspection in order to ascertain whether the provisions of the Ordinance and Regulations are being complied with. The Governor-in-Council is empowered to grant permission for the laying of pipes for the conveyance of oil under streets or privately owned land. The Ordinance is in effect an enabling Ordinance allowing detailed regulations to be made as to the transport by sea or land, and the storage of petroleum in accordance with modern practice.

The Moneylenders Ordinance which has been adapted from the Moneylenders Act, 1927, of the United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements Ordinance, provides for the licensing and control of moneylenders. Previously there was no such Ordinance in force in the Colony. The Ordinance does not apply to bona fide bankers, insurance companies or pawnbrokers licensed under the Licence Ordinance, 1924, or any person bona fide carrying on a business not having for its primary object the lending of money in the course of which and for the purposes whereof money is lent at a rate of interest not exceeding 10 per centum per annum, or to any person who during the course of one year lends money on interest or for profit on not more than three occasions. No contract of loan is enforceable unless a note or memorandum of the loan be given. Compound interest is forbidden. Provision is made for the re-opening of any transaction which is harsh and unconscionable, and charges for expenses on loans by moneylenders are prohibited. Interest about 12 per centum per annum is presumed excessive.

The Pensions Ordinance which replaces the Pensions Ordinance, 1928, is based on a model Ordinance and applies to the Colony so far as is possible the principle of uniformity in superannuation benefits throughout the various colonies. The principle of calculating pensions on the basis of 1/600th of the pensionable emoluments for each completed month of pensionable service is substituted for that of calculation on the basis of 1/720th for each month plus a climatic bonus of 60/720ths in respect of the first ten years of service. The Governor-in-Council may require any officer to retire after he has attained the age of 55 years and in special cases, with the approval of the Secretary of State, after he has attained the age of 50 years.

The Government Employees Provident Fund Ordinance was passed to make provision for superannuation benefits for certain non-pensionable employees in the Government Service by means of a Provident Fund. A monthly reduction of five per centum and, in the case of females, six per centum is to be made from the salaries of contributors and the Government is to credit the account of each contributor with a like sum called a bonus. The bonus is increased in the case of male officers with over ten years' continuous service and still further increased after 20 years.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony, the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with one. The paid up capital of, and deposits held in the Colony by these two banks on 31st December, 1938, was:—

	Paid-up Capital.	*Deposits.*
Bank of New South Wales ...	£23,710,000	£1,433,688
Bank of New Zealand ...	£10,277,005	£475,395

In addition there is a Government Savings Bank, in which the number of accounts, at the end of the year, was (approximately) 12,945 and the total amount on deposit was (approximately) £352,163, an increase of £1,562 over the previous year's figure. The assets, exclusive of the Depreciation Fund, were as follows:—

	£
Investments (market price on 31st December, 1938 approximately).	398,371
Cash at Bank, Treasury, Head Office, and Branches	12,738
Total	£411,109

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1938 were as follows:—

	£	£
Income from investments		14,789
Interest credited to Depositors (approximately)	9,384	
Expenses (approximately)	3,309	
		12,693
Surplus		£2,096

The rate of interest paid to depositors was 3 per cent. up to £1,000.

Currency.

Legislation in 1933 and 1934 provided for the issue of Government currency notes and coin which follow the United

Kingdom currency denominations. The Fiji pound is linked to sterling by law at the rate of £F.111 = £100 sterling.

The approximate position of the Note Security Fund at the 31st December, 1938, was as follows:—

		Sterling.			Fiji.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities ...	Notes in circulation ...				665,427	15	0
Assets ...	Note Security Fund invested portion.	649,133	16	4	720,538	10	9
	Cash with Colonial Treasurer and Crown Agents.	31,531	11	0	35,000	0	0
		£680,665	7	4	£755,538	10	9

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures used in Fiji are the same as in England.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The progress of the Colony is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Assets.*	*Liabilities.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	158,428
1929 ...	677,945	642,124	557,043	362,794	194,249
1930 ...	638,763	645,291	408,971	221,250	187,721
1931 ...	565,393	605,973	452,080	304,940	147,140
1932 ...	547,461	528,604	449,743	283,746	165,997
1933 ...	605,201	569,984	590,660	389,446	201,214
1934 ...	782,914	722,963	770,343	509,178	261,165
1935 ...	733,432	641,181	857,694	504,278	353,416
1936 ...	796,630	677,152	898,373	425,479	472,894
1937 ...	947,497	878,104	1,114,843	572,556	542,287
1938*...	863,857	1,000,387	—	—	405,757

* (Revised Estimate).

The revised estimated expenditure of £1,000,387 for 1938 includes the sum of £177,450 capital expenditure from the Colony's accumulated surplus revenue.

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accummulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1929 there was an accumulated surplus of £194,249. This surplus was reduced to £147,140 at the end of 1931, but increased at the end of 1937 to £542,287.

The surplus at 31st December, 1938, is estimated to be £405,757.

Debt.

The Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1938, was as under:—

	£
Specific Loan (Ordinance No. 7 of 1928)	765,000
Public Purposes Loan (Ordinance No. 2 of 1929) ...	171,408
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 14 of 1932) ...	154,996
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 51 of 1930 and Ordinance No. 17 of 1934).	182,497
Public Works Loan (Ordinance No. 27 of 1937) ...	144,740
Total (sterling)	£1,418,641

The sinking fund in connection with the Specific Loan amounted to approximately £F91,807 at the close of the year. A supplementary sinking fund for the redemption of any other loans raised now amounts to approximately £F54,457. Provision for sinking fund contributions in respect of the Public Purposes Loan was first made in 1932, and amounted to approximately £F37,202 at the close of the year. The Sinking Fund in respect of the Public Works Loan, 1959, amounted to approximately £F25,765 at the close of the year, and for the Public Works Loan 1960-70, to approximately £F11,994. It is estimated that the contributions to the loan raised in 1938 will amount to £F2,670 at 31st December, 1938.

Revenue.

It is estimated that the revenue of the year will amount to £863,857, a decrease of £83,640 as compared with 1937. The decrease is due to extraordinary revenue received in 1937. The main items of estimated revenue grouped under their various heads are as follows:—

	£
Customs	476,200
Port, wharfage and light dues	29,500
Native taxes	10,000
Licences, excise and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	142,205
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific purposes, and reimbursements-in-aid.	71,828
Post Office	36,450
Rent of Government property	14,060
Interest	37,482
Miscellaneous	45,100
Land sales and premia on leases	1,000
Colonial Development Fund	32

The amounts estimated to be received from licences, stamp duties, and income tax are £22,405, £6,500, and £46,000 respectively.

The amount estimated under the Residential Tax Ordinance is £23,400. The rate is £1 per annum on all males (other than Fijians) between the ages of 18 and 60, with certain exemptions. All persons liable for the tax are required to register themselves and the tax must be paid to the Colonial Treasurer or a sub-accountant by the end of March each year: penalties are imposed for failure to register and for non-payment of the tax. The Fijians pay two direct taxes, the Native Tax and the Provincial Rate, and are exempted from payment of the Residential Tax. The Native Tax is a Government tax and is now collected by each Province as part of the Provincial Rate. The Provinces then pay to Government their annual assessments which are assessed on a population basis.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff is in general on an *ad valorem* basis, duty being assessed on value of goods at the port of shipment. Practically all products of the British Empire receive preferential treatment.

On most articles subject to *ad valorem* duty, the British preferential rate is 20 per cent., and the general rate 40 per cent. On imports subject to a specific rate of duty the general rate is usually 50 per cent. higher than the preferential rate, the principal exceptions being illuminating and power kerosene and petrol on which duties of 9d. and 8d. per gallon respectively are levied, irrespective of the country of origin.

The following are some of the principal articles which, if of British manufacture, are admitted free of duty:—

> Aircraft and accessories; certain specified educational material; articles for boy scouts and girl guides; bags and sacks over two bushels; cans and casks for use as containers of Fiji produce; coal and coke; church furniture; infants' foods; muntz metal and copper sheathing; tar and bitumen; approved weed-killers; wire netting, galvanized, of not less than 4 inches mesh; wire galvanized fencing not less than 10 British gauge; fencing posts; gates; standards and droppers other than ornamental of iron or steel.

The above articles if of foreign manufacture pay duty at the rate of 20 per cent.

The following articles are admitted free of duty from all countries:—

> Animals; live birds and fish; bacteriological products; ship's ballast; books; periodicals and music, printed; coconuts; collections of antiques for public institutions; natural history specimens; containers used in the export of products of the Colony; copra; gas and ammonia cylinders; manures; crude and diesel oils; plants and seeds; used and unused postage stamps; and vessels being

yachts the property of tourists visiting the Colony; show-cards, prints and advertising matter and printing blocks for advertising purposes.

Machinery and implements as follows are liable to 7½ per cent. British Preferential Tariff or 22½ per cent. general tariff. These rates are effective until the 1st June, 1940:—

Agricultural implements and butter-making and milking machines; agricultural machines; sugar-making machinery; fruit and meat canning machinery; engines, steam, oil or gas, marine or stationary; timber milling and sawing machinery; electric machinery and mining machinery.

Approved fruit and produce driers and dehydrators, until the 1st June, 1940, are admitted free of duty preferential tariff and pay 15 per cent. under general tariff.

The tariff in general is a revenue tariff, but aims at fostering local industries.

XVII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

An Adviser on Native Affairs is stationed at headquarters, and the system of Native administration, conducted through District Commissioners and thence through Native Chiefs, makes practical use of the indigenous Communal System and is regulated by a code of Native Regulations. These provide for the carrying out of all communal duties, such as house-building, village sanitation, cultivation of food crops, maintenance of communal property, care of the sick, control of infectious diseases and many other matters of public benefit connected with Native Administration. It also provides for the levying of rates. The constitution of the various Councils is provided for in these Regulations.

These Councils are: the Council of Chiefs of Fiji, which sits every two years; the Provincial Councils, which sit annually; and the District Councils, which sit monthly. These Councils pass Resolutions which, when they have the approval of the Governor, are enforceable.

Breaches of the Native Regulations are dealt with by Native Magistrates in Native District Courts and by a District Commissioner sitting with a Native Magistrate in Provincial Courts. The system of Native Councils and Courts provides the Fijians with a large measure of self-government.

Medical care is given by European Medical Officers, Nurses, Native Medical Practitioners and Native Obstetric Nurses, distributed throughout the Group. The control of Child Welfare work has been transferred to the Medical Department, but the success depends to a great extent on the co-operation of the Native Officials of the Administration. Increased interest is being taken in the work by mothers. Native Chiefs are also taking a more personal interest as the benefits become more apparent.

The estimated Fijian population on the 31st of December, 1938, was 101,285, an increase of 1,690 on the figures for 1937. The birth rate for 1938 was 37·63 per 1,000, or a total of 3,811, compared with 34·46 or 3,432 in 1937. The death rate was 20·94 per 1,000, or a total of 2,121, compared with 21·37 or 2,128 in 1937.

The following are the infant mortality figures of Fijian children up to five years of age:—

Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years
408	225	68	64	38

An increasing number of Fijians are applying for exemption from the performance of communal duties to take up farming as a living. Training Farms have been opened in Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata, Lomaiviti, and are financed by the natives. Native field assistants are stationed throughout the Provinces under the direction of European agricultural officers. This movement is being closely watched and guided by the Administration, and every effort is being made to ensure that the growers are able to market their crops.

The Native tax payable to Government in 1938 amounted to £10,000, assessed *pro rata* for payment by the Provinces from Provincial funds. This was paid in full.

The amount of Provincial Revenue for 1938 was £36,530, while expenditure was estimated at £39,552.

XVIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Vital Statistics.

The return of the Indian population in Fiji at the Census of 26th April, 1936, was 85,002. The estimated Indian population on 31st December, 1938, was 92,309. Of this total, 51,862 are males and 40,447 females. There were 3,648 births registered (as against 3,357 in 1937), the birthrate per mille being 39·52. The number of deaths were 1,034 or 11·20 per thousand.

The following are the infant mortality figures of Indian children up to five years of age:

Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years
280	59	26	6	8

The natural increase in the Indian population for the year was 2,976.

Emigration and Immigration.

The 1938 figures are as follows:—

Immigrants:

(*a*) By the direct boat—367 men, 204 women, 135 boys and 43 girls, a total of 749.

(*b*) By other overseas vessels—83 men, 15 women, 7 boys and 3 girls, a total of 108.

making a total of 857 immigrants.

Emigrants:

(*a*) By the direct boat—191 males and 40 females repatriated at Government expense, also 155 males and 40 females who travelled at their own expense, totalling 426.

(*b*) By other overseas vessels—68 men, 9 women, 4 boys and 2 girls, totalling 83,

making a total of 509 emigrants.

The restriction of immigration is still necessary, and it is a subject which has engaged the attention of a specially appointed committee during the year.

Destitution.

The absence of abject poverty is noticeable in Fiji. On 31st December, 1938, the following Indians were in receipt of Government assistance:—

Inmates of the Poor House, Suva	26
Number of persons in the colony in receipt of outdoor relief ...	103

In addition, Indians maintained at Government expense included 41 men and 20 women in the Mental Hospital, Suva (being 70·25 per cent. of the total number of inmates); and approximately 250 were receiving treatment at the Central Leper Hospital, Makogai.

Education.

The growing willingness of parents to allow girls to attend school is an encouraging feature, but the establishment of girls' schools is hindered by the custom of early marriage and the consequent difficulty in obtaining teachers. One Indian girl was sent to Delhi at Government's expense, to undergo a course of nursing training.

Economic, Social and Political.

The spending capacity of Indians in the sugar-cane areas, and the common desire of Indian agriculturists to secure cane land are indications that this crop continues to be profitable and attractive. During the year 1938, these cane growers produced and sold to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, 928,288 tons of sugar-cane, for which they were paid £684,472, an average price of 14s. 9d. per ton. The Company's tenants cultivated 21,895 acres producing 509,000 tons, the yield per acre being 23·3 tons; other growers, cultivating 20,209 acres, produced 419,228 tons, with an average yield of 20·7 tons per acre. Indian farmers also produce rice, maize, copra, bananas, pineapples, tobacco, cotton, dal and ghee.

There is no unemployment problem among Indians in the Colony. There is no inter-religious strife.

XIX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

LAND.

Before the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the Native Chiefs, and after the Deed of Session, in 1874, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the Natives had been issued, but in that year the sale of Native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to 99 years for leases for agricultural purposes, 75 years for building purposes, and 21 years with option of renewal for a further period of 21 years (subject to reassessment of the rental) for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of 99 years is subject to reassessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to reassessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases the rent is subject to reassessment to a maximum not exceeding 5 per cent. of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that, in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with the upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas in country districts are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 3d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 1s. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1938:—

			In process of aleniation.			
Nature of title.	*No. of titles.*	*Area.*	*No. of Lots.*	*Estimated. Area.*	*Total.*	*Area of Colony.*
		Acres.		*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
Freehold ...	1,598	532,742	Nil	—	532,742	4,515,500
Leases of Crown Lands.	968	23,948	158	2,217	26,165	—
Leases of Native Lands.	7,339	282,887	631	11,019	293,906	—
	9,905	839,577	789	13,236	852,813	4,515,500

Seven hundred and fifty applications for leases of native land aggregating 15,400 acres were received during the year. Of these 354 applications for 5,726 acres were approved and 284 applications for 6,578 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 87 per cent. of the total. Two hundred and twenty-three applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 2,614 acres. Of these 126 applications for 448 acres were approved and 76 applications for 1,832 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

NATIVE LANDS COMMISSION.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under the Native Lands Ordinance, 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman, and two native Chiefs of high rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with powers to summon and examine on oath any persons whom they think are able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within 60 days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land, and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just.

The Native Lands Commission inquiries, in the Province of Lau were continued during the year.

SURVEY.

The temporary staff attached to the Native Lands Commission were employed in Kadavu, the area surveyed during the year being 49,094 acres, bringing the total area surveyed for the Native Lands Commission to 3,629,668 acres.

Three senior members of the staff were employed on administrative work at headquarters, on the examination of plans, preparation of town-planning designs and miscellaneous surveys in and near Suva.

Only one surveyor was employed throughout the year in a country district. This surveyor was engaged in the survey of Crown and native leases, in contour and detailed surveys of proposed townships and other miscellaneous work. Instructions for the survey of leases of native and Crown lands were issued by the Crown Surveyor to seven surveyors in private practice. Five hundred and seven plans of surveys made by Government and private surveyors were examined and passed for issue of leases.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall for the year was 158·85 inches, being 38·67 inches in excess of the normal (120·18 inches). Up to the end of June there was a deficiency of nearly 16 inches, February, March and April being rather dry months. The deficiency was reduced to between seven inches and eight inches from July to August, and to normal at the end of September. The last three months of the year were exceptionally wet, culminating in an almost record fall for December of 30·52 inches with 10·62 inches falling in one day, 21st December.

The following table gives the total rainfall at certain stations in Fiji during 1938, together with the averages and departures from normal over a period of years:—

Station.	*No. of Years.*	*Total Rainfall.*	*Average Rainfall.*	*Departure from Normal.*
Labasa	44	134·97	82·87	+52·10
Lautoka	38	90·25	70·09	+20·16
Lawaqa	32	91·09	70·23	+20·86
Levuka	44	139·35	92·95	+46·40
Nadarivatu	38	229·56	140·35	+89·21
Nabouwalu	20	121·16	105·36	+15·60
Rarawai	44	124·94	81·88	+43·06
Salia Levu	23	259·00	211·05	+47·95
Suva	54	158·85	120·18	+38·67
Tavua	2	135·29	—	—
Vunidawa	26	165·22	142·08	+23·14
Wainunu	59	193·51	147·81	+45·70
Yanawai	2	306·83	—	—

Most of the excesses occurred in February, May, July, and October to December. During the latter three months, some phenomenal falls were recorded, particularly on 21st December. On this day 36·50 inches were recorded at Navai Valley where the total fall for the month of December was 73·16 inches.

Two cyclones were experienced in the group during the year, both of which passed near the west of Viti Levu and were responsible for minor damage only. The first occurred on 26th to 27th February, and passed approximately 50 miles west of Lautoka, causing very heavy rain on the north-west coast of Viti Levu, and north-westerly gales (force 9/10).

The second disturbance passed to the west of Viti Levu on the 21st and 22nd December, moving about south-south-east, and passed close to Lautoka on the afternoon of the 21st. North-east to northerly gales to force 10 with very heavy rain and floodings were experienced, with northerly winds of forces 6 to 8 in the eastern part of the group.

General.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Frederick Richards, K.C.M.G., left the Colony on the 22nd July, 1938, on appointment as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica.

His Excellency Sir Harry Charles Luke, K.C.M.G., formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Malta, arrived in the Colony on the 16th September, 1938, as Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

A session of the Legislative Council was held from the 22nd April to the 3rd May for the purpose of making provision for the reorganization of the Public Service. The new conditions became effective from the 1st January, 1938, and are similar to those in force in other Crown Colonies.

A further session of the Council was held from the 25th November to the 3rd December during which the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1939 were approved.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price*
Fiji and the Fijians. By Rev. T. Williams and Rev. J. Calvert.	Alexander Heylin, London. 1860. 2nd Edition (2 vols.).	6s.
Viti. By Berthold Seeman ...	Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London. 1862.	10s.
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Natives' Taxation and Communal System in Fiji.	Cmd. 2240—His Majesty's Stationery Office. 1904.	
The Fijians. By Basil Thomson ...	Heineman, London. 1905 ...	25s.
The Hill Tribes of Fiji. By A. B. Brewster.	Seely, Service and Co., Ltd., London. 1922.	21s.
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A more complete bibliography will be found in "The Colony of Fiji—Handbook, 1937."

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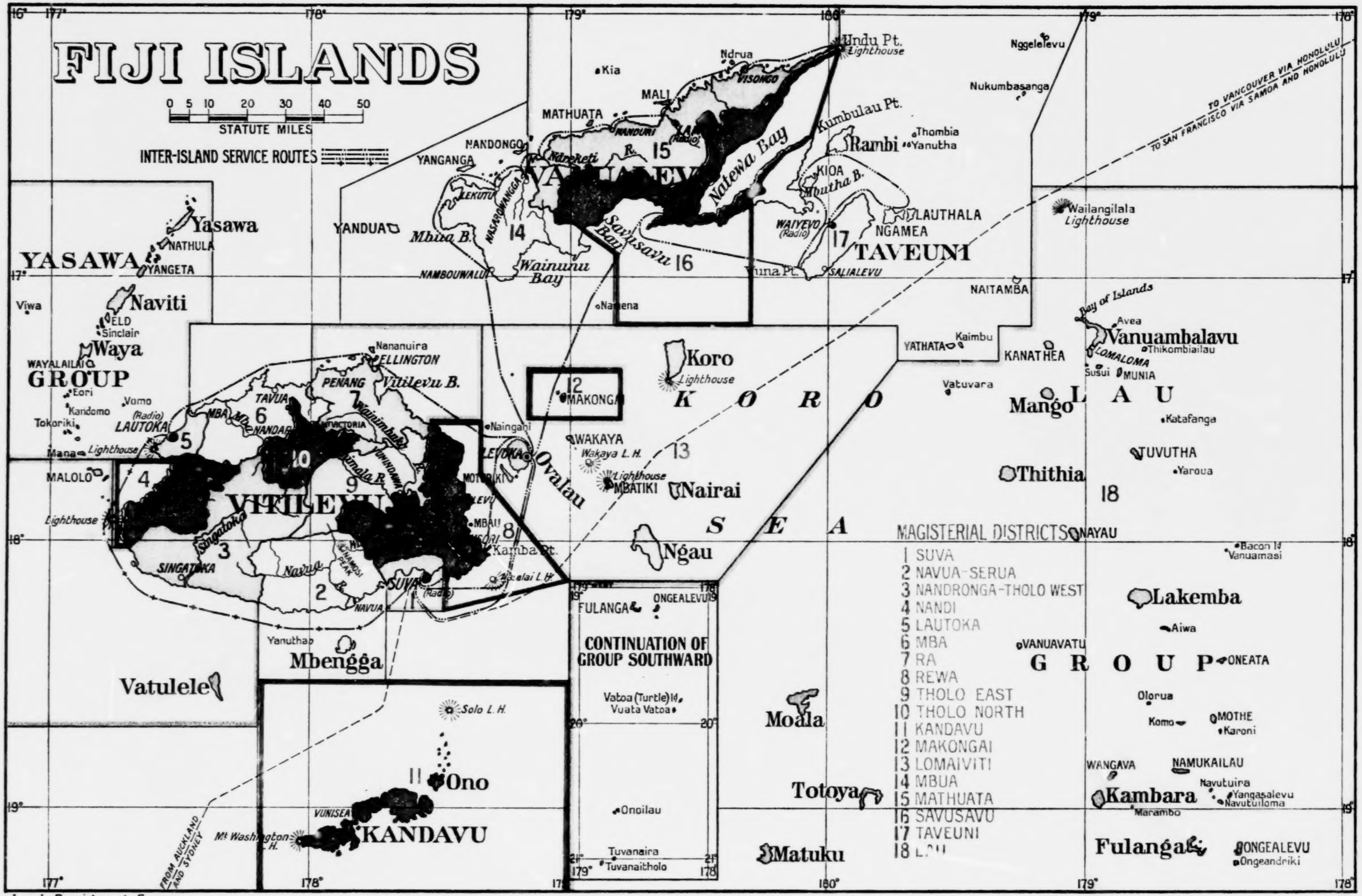
FIJI ISLANDS
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
STATUTE MILES
INTER-ISLAND SERVICE ROUTES
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS
1 SUVA
2 NAVUA-SERUA
3 NANDRONGA-THOLO WEST
4 NANDI
5 LAUTOKA
6 MBA
7 RA
8 REWA
9 THOLO EAST
10 THOLO NORTH
11 KANDAVU
12 MAKONGAI
13 LOMAIVITI
14 MBUA
15 MATHUATA
16 SAVUSAVU
17 TAVEUNI
18 LAU
YASAWA GROUP
Yasawa
NATHULA
YANGETA
Naviti
Viwa
ELD
Sinclair
Waya
WAYALAILAI
Eori
Kandomo
Vomo
Tokoriki
LAUTOKA
(Radio)
Lighthouse
Mana
MALOLO
VITILEVU
Vitilevu B.
ELLINGTON
Nananuira
PENANG
TAVUA
MBA
NANDARI
VICTORIA
Wainimbuka
Singatoka
SINGATOKA
Navua
NAVUA
SUVA
(Radio)
Kamba Pt.
MBAU
MOTURIKI
LEVUKA
Ovalau
Naingani
Mbengga
Yanuthaba
Vatulele
Solo L. H.
Ono
KANDAVU
VUNISEA
Mt Washington L. H.
FROM AUCKLAND AND SYDNEY
VANUALEVU
Undu Pt.
Lighthouse
Ndrua
VISONGO
Kia
MALI
MATHUATA
NANDONGO
YANGANGA
Nareketi R.
LEKUTU
Mbua B.
YANDUA
NAMBOUWALU
Wainunu Bay
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Kumbulau Pt.
Rambi
Thombia
Yanutha
KIOA
Mbutha B.
WAIYEVO
(Radio)
LAUTHALA
NGAMEA
TAVEUNI
Vuna Pt.
SALIALEVU
Namena
Nggelelevu
Nukumbasanga
TO VANCOUVER VIA HONOLULU
TO SAN FRANCISCO VIA SAMOA AND HONOLULU
Wailangilala Lighthouse
NAITAMBA
Bay of Islands
Avea
Vanuambalavu
Thikombiailau
LOMALOMA
Susui
MUNIA
YATHATA
Kaimbu
KANATHEA
Vatuvara
Koro
Lighthouse
MAKONGAI
KORO SEA
WAKAYA
Wakaya L. H.
Lighthouse
MBATIKI
Nairai
Ngau
LAU GROUP
Mango
Katafanga
TUVUTHA
Yaroua
Thithia
NAYAU
Bacon Id
Vanuamasi
Lakemba
Aiwa
VANUAVATU
ONEATA
Olorua
Komo
MOTHE
Karoni
Moala
Totoya
Matuku
WANGAVA
NAMUKAILAU
Navutuira
Yangasalevu
Navutuiloma
Kambara
Marambo
Fulanga
ONGEALEVU
Ongeandriki
FULANGA
CONTINUATION OF GROUP SOUTHWARD
Vatoa (Turtle) Id
Vuata Vatoa
Onoilau
Tuvanaira
Tuvanaitholo
16°
177°
178°
179°
180°
17°
18°
19°
20°
21°

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